

Hafa Adai!

'Not guilty' plea for man tagged in 'ice' smuggling. **PAGE 2**
SCA welcomes back volunteer vet at new clinic site. **PAGE 3**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

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FRIDAY APRIL 8, 2022

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\$6.1 M tax refund checks out

The Division of Revenue & Taxation of the Department of Finance announced yesterday that it will issue tax refunds today, April 8, 2022, to 2,623 early filers.

The first batch includes \$1.9 million of regular refunds; \$2.2 million of Additional Child Tax Credit; and \$1.9 million in

Earned Income Tax Credits.

The first batch consists of all eligible taxpayers processed without error as of April 7,

2022. All taxpayers are asked to allow three to five business days for the U.S. Postal Service to sort and distribute mail.

Direct deposit

Over 1,000 taxpayers opted to receive refunds via direct deposit. See REFUND on **Page 4**

'Impeachment record a disorganized jumble' » Hoschneider says House's failures does not result in impeachment's dismissal

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) described yesterday as a "disorganized mess" the House of



Hofschneider

Representatives' impeachment record, adding that this demonstrates a lack of proper

See **IMPEACHMENT** on **Page 4**

RELATED NEWS

'House Impeachment record complies with letter, spirit of rules' **PAGE 8**

China's new security deal with Solomons raises alarm in Pacific



Floodlights illuminate the Chinese Embassy after a rain in Honiara, Solomon Islands, April 1, 2022.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A security alliance between China and the Solomon Islands has sent

shudders throughout the South Pacific, with many worried it could set off a large-scale

See **CHINA'S** on **Page 4**



INFO SESSION FOR FARMERS

Attendees of the information session hosted by the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources listen to Department of Commerce coordinator for Economic Development Jo Anna Ada discuss a grant program available to farmers at the information session organized by the CNMI Small Business Development Center at Northern Marianas College. Eligible applicants will be awarded up to \$5,000.

SBDC

Atalig : Next local stimulus not \$1,000 as requested

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig said yesterday that giving \$1,000 for each CNMI resident in another local stimulus using American Rescue Plan Act funding would translate to \$50 million to \$53 million and the administration cannot afford that amount at the mo-

ment because of the expenses incurred due to the recent spike in COVID-19 cases.

Atalig stated, though, that he and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres are committed to helping the community and are doing their best to help people so there



Atalig

may be another local stimulus but not as much as what was requested. "We should have a better answer by early part of May. And more information will be forthcoming," he said.

Atalig said they're basically reviewing all of their

See **ATALIG** on **Page 4**

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Health officials continue to grapple with how to keep the vaccines updated to protect Americans.

Page 14



ASIA

Chinese coast guard ship last month maneuvered for days near a Philippine research vessel.

Page 16



WORLD

The mayor of the port city of Mariupol put the number of civilians killed there at more than 5,000.

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Local

'Not guilty' plea for man tagged in 'ice' smuggling

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

A man who is accused of smuggling nearly five pounds of methamphetamine or "ice" has pleaded not guilty before the Superior Court.

During an arraignment hearing before Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja on Monday, Yuzhu Zhang, 48, pleaded not guilty to importation of contraband, trafficking, and possession of a controlled substance.

Naraja accepted Zhang's plea and reassigned the case to Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho before remanding the defendant back to Department of Corrections custody.

He also ordered the parties to return to court for a case management conference on May 18, at 10am where the parties should be prepared to advise the court whether the matter will be disposed of by a change of plea, trial, or other disposition.

During the hearing, the CNMI was represented by assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas while Zhang, who appeared in the custody of the Department of Corrections, was represented by assistant

public defender Vina Seelam.

According to court documents, Zhang is accused of attempting to smuggle 4.9 pounds of methamphetamine from California through the U.S. Postal Service.

The seized contraband has a street value of approximately \$700,000.

The "ice" was uncovered at approximately 10am on March 19 during a Customs routine inspection of a large parcel addressed to Zhang. Inside the parcel, Customs officer Franklin Sablan said he saw three wooden cases containing chinaware. Upon further inspection of the wooden cases, Sablan said he noticed a squared object wrapped in duct tape under the chinaware inside the wooden case. While examining the square object wrapped in duct tape, the officer noticed white crystalline substance spilling into the wooden case.

After procuring the parcel and its contents as evidence, the items were transported to the Customs Office at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport for processing and testing where it came out positive for methamphetamine.

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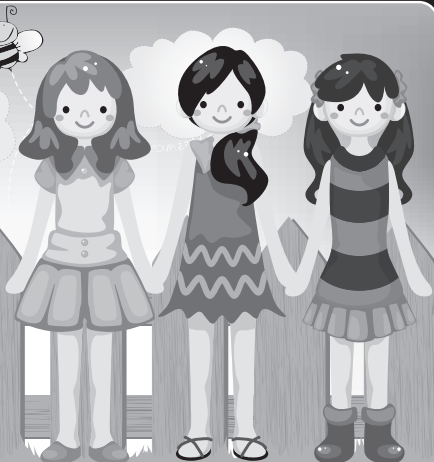
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SCA welcomes back volunteer vet at new clinic site



LEIGH GASES

Saipan Cares for Animals volunteer veterinarian Dr. Jennifer Johnson on the operating table working on someone's beloved pet cat yesterday at the SCA Clinic on Middle Road.

By LEIGH GASES

leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Cares for Animals welcomes back volunteer veterinarian Jennifer Johnson, who will be on Saipan until April 12 at SCA's new clinic on Middle Road across Shell Expressway.

SCA also announced the relocation of its temporary clinic on Middle Road on their Facebook page on March 5 and since then has been serving the community with longer hours at a more central location.

Johnson is from Washington state and was a volunteer veterinarian for SCA back in October 2018 before Super Typhoon Yutu hit. She was supposed to make her way back here in 2020, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic was unable to get back until just last April 3, Friday.

Back in Washington, she is a part-owner of a small animal practice, where they get mostly dogs and cats, but get the occasional rabbit, gerbil, and hamster as well.

As for what she does in SCA, "I do whatever they need me to do that they need a doctor for. So mostly spays and neuters and talking to pet

owners about health problems with their pets and bigger surgeries if the timing works out," Johnson said in an interview at the new SCA clinic.

Johnson heard about SCA online about five years ago when she and SCA director Beth Pliscou started communicating. Johnson and Pliscou hope to have her visit on a regular or annual basis to assist and help out with surgeries and assist the community with their pets.

"I would like to make it as regular as I can. At some point, I want to not work at my day practice anymore and maybe just travel and do this kind of stuff—work in underserved areas. I'd like to help Beth and Yumi get stuff set up here so that maybe they can be a little bit less dependent on traveling doctors—some diagnostic stuff, like we've already set up the microscope, which we're learning how to use and other stuff so that they can have more diagnostic capabilities to help people with pets. That would be one of my goals for

being here," Johnson said.

As for the new clinic, Pliscou said, "It's worked out really, really good. We've also been able to increase our hours dramatically. ... We're open from 9am to 6pm, Monday through Saturday, and emergencies on Sunday. That has made the flow so much better. [Pet owners] don't have to wait so long and it's comfortable as it's not smelly and all that. So this has been a really nice work environment—we're really enjoying it." Pliscou said many of those who have been going to the clinic "really like it too. The staff is very comfortable. It's working well. I'm happy."

As for the SCA As Gonno shelter, it will be closed down at the end of April and 40 dogs

will be relocated to the Mayor's Dog Shelter until the new SCA shelter in As Lito is built. "I eventually want the shelter and the clinic at the same place," Pliscou said.

The dogs at the SCA As Gonno shelter still need families to either adopt or foster them. According to SCA's Facebook post, "These dogs are all adoptable dogs and ready to find their forever homes. Please adopt or foster! You can also help by donating any amount to SCA's PayPal: @saipancares670."

Their contact information are (670) 285-5448, for the As Gonno Shelter, (670) 488-2751, for the Middle Road Clinic, (670) 285-5448 for emergencies, and (670) 488-2751, to schedule an appointment.

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The Mobility Space is
Getting Greener
in the Northern Mariana Islands

The mobility space is getting greener in the Northern Mariana Islands, as Enterprise Saipan announced today that it has acquired hybrid vehicles as part of its fleet of vehicles serving Saipan.

This investment not only supports demand for safe and reliable mobility options during the COVID-19 crisis but also demonstrates Enterprise's commitment to supporting local economies and driving forward environmentally friendly modes of transportation across the islands as they move out of travel restrictions.

Enterprise Saipan also upholds its commitment to maintaining the highest standards of cleanliness in the car rental industry through the implementation of the Enterprise Complete Clean Pledge.

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Kan Pacific, IPI settlement fails

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd., and Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC have failed to reach a settlement so the U.S. District Court for the NMI has ordered for the parties to move forward with discovery.

During a telephone status conference yesterday, Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy was informed by both parties that no settlement has been reached and she ordered both parties to proceed with the next step leading to trial, discovery.

"Parties updated the court on status of settlement. No settlement was reached. Parties will proceed with discovery," she said.

According to an online definition, discovery is the exchange of information between two parties before a

trial is set. Discovery is when one party provides the opposing party information about its witness and evidence that may be brought up in trial to help the opposite party prepare their arguments.

During the hearing, Joseph Iacopino represented Kan Pacific Saipan while Joey San Nicolas appeared with Tao Xing for IPI.

In this case, Kan Pacific is suing IPI for breach of a written agreement signed by both parties back in May 2016 relating to the lease of the Mariana Resort property.

Iacopino said that prior to entering into the agreement, several disputes and potential causes of action developed between plaintiff and IPI that exposed each party to the potential for an adverse judgment, attorney's fees, costs, expenditure of time and resources and other

adverse consequences.

As a material part of the consideration for entering into the agreement, Iacopino said, IPI became contractu-

ally and legally bound and obligated to pay Kan Pacific the sum of \$5 million, which was to be satisfied by making 25 annual payments to

Kan Pacific in the amount of \$200,000 on June 1 of each calendar year commencing on June 1, 2017.

IPI made the first three annual payments in June 2017, June 2018, and June 2019. However, IPI allegedly failed and refused to tender any por-

tion of the amount that became due and owing on June 1, 2020.

Kan Pacific claims they sent IPI more than 10 days' notice of such default, and IPI has refused to pay, including the annual payment that became due and owing on June 1, 2021.

SCC continues Free Movie Nights this Sunday

Saipan Community Church will have its third Free Movie Nights activity this Sunday, April 10, starting at 7pm.

SCC senior pastor Stephen Dame said they began hosting Free Movie Nights to give back to the community that has given so much to the church over the years.

"It is a good way for us to invite the community in and for us to get to know them and for them to get to know one another. We want people to see that our church cares about them. An added bonus is that it gives people something to do and perhaps to see a movie they haven't seen. The leader of the movie



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Photo shows past viewings of Saipan Community Church's Free Movie Nights in Susupe.

nights has stated his desire to offer this free out of his

experience growing up. He said every Sunday evening

friends and family would gather around the TV to watch the Wonderful World of Disney. We'd like to offer that same concept here so others can have something to look forward to," he said.

In addition to the free movie, many nights sponsors will provide certain concession items for free to all in attendance. This is in addition to the snacks at the concession stand available for purchase.

Like the Saipan Community Church Facebook page or follow it on Instagram @saipancommunitychurch to receive updates as soon as they are available. (PR)

ATALIG

From Page 1

ARPA spending. He said they had a spending plan for helping households, which they accomplished through the initial local \$500 stimulus, in which \$26 million went into the community. He said they also did the utility stimulus to help households with \$500 credit on utilities.

Atalig said he understands that the House of Representatives had passed a resolution that request the administration to implement another stimulus—whether it's cash stimulus or fuel or gas voucher stimulus.

He said that giving additional stimulus was not an initial part of the ARPA spending plan.

Atalig said they are still reviewing all the expenses that they had, especially when the CNMI had a spike in COVID-19 numbers.

REFUND

From Page 4

deposit. Taxpayers with bank information errors will be automatically converted to a check payment. Taxpayers are advised to submit accurate bank information on their tax returns to avoid delays in refund issuance.

Processing schedule

DRT will continue to process tax refunds on a weekly basis for all federal refundable credits, such as the Additional Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit. The regular 2021 tax refunds will be processed on a bi-weekly basis.

For any questions or concerns, contact the Division of Revenue & Taxation Call Center at 670-664-1040. (PR)

"We spent a lot of money mitigating that, with more resources at the hospital, on testing sites, and so we have to factor those expenses that we did to get through that spike period we had," he said.

He said, however, he is not saying that there won't be any additional local stimulus. "I'm just saying I am not sure until probably the end of the month when my team analyzes our review of the ARPA," he said.

Atalig said they have to make sure they have enough money for next fiscal year to take care of government employees' 20% salary.

He said they submitted a budget to the Legislature last Friday but it was only 80% of the salary for government employees and it's coming from the general fund.

"We still need to cover the additional 20% to keep employees, keep government employees employed," he said.

CHINA'S

From Page 1

military buildup or that Western animosity to the deal could play into China's hands.

What remains most unclear is the extent of China's ambitions.

A Chinese military presence in the Solomons would put it not only on the doorstep of Australia and New Zealand but also in close proximity to Guam, with its massive U.S. military bases.

China so far operates just one acknowledged foreign military base, in the impoverished but strategically important Horn of Africa nation of Djibouti. Many believe that China's People's Liberation Army is busy establishing an overseas military network, even if they don't use the term "base."

The Solomon Islands government says a draft of its

agreement with China was initialed last week and will be "cleaned up" and signed soon.

The draft, which was leaked online, says that Chinese warships could stop in the Solomons for "logistical replenishment" and that China could send police, military personnel and other armed forces to the Solomons "to assist in maintaining social order."

The draft agreement specifies China must approve what information is disclosed about joint security arrangements, including at media briefings.

The Solomon Islands, home to about 700,000 people, switched diplomatic recognition from Taiwan to Beijing in 2019—a move rejected by the most populous province and a contributing factor to riots last November.

U.S. Secretary of State Anto-

ny Blinken responded in February by saying that Washington would reopen its embassy in the capital, Honiara, which has been closed since 1993, to increase its influence in the Solomons before China becomes "strongly embedded."

Both China and the Solomons have strongly denied the new pact will lead to the establishment of a Chinese military base. The Solomon Islands government said the pact is necessary because of its limited ability to deal with violent uprisings like the one in November.

"The country has been ruined by recurring internal violence for years," the government said this week.

But Australia, New Zealand and the U.S. have all expressed alarm about the deal, with New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern describ-

ing it as "gravely concerning."

David Panuelo, the president of nearby Micronesia, which has close ties to the U.S., wrote an impassioned letter to Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare asking him to rethink the agreement.

He noted that both Micronesia and the Solomon Islands were battlegrounds during World War II, caught up in the clash of great powers.

"I am confident that neither of us wishes to see a conflict of that scope or scale ever again, and most particularly in our own backyards," Panuelo wrote.

But the Solomon Islands police minister mocked Panuelo's concerns on social media, saying he should be more worried about his own atoll being swallowed by the ocean due to climate change.

IMPEACHMENT

From Page 1

leadership in the guidance of the House prosecution.

Hofschneider, who is the presiding officer in the impeachment case against Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, said in a press statement that the product (impeachment record) the House presented as "meticulously prepared" was a disorganized mess.

He said this happened perhaps due to the House's refusal to participate in the impeachment proceedings in any meaningful way.

The Senate president said House clerk Linda Muña cannot be held responsible for the inappropriate impeachment record as such responsibility lies with the group of represen-

tatives that have claimed to be the prosecutors for the House.

House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), vice speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan), and Rep. Corina L. Magofna (D-Saipan) have all declined the Senate's appointment for each of them to serve as House prosecutor.

Villagomez instead filed a notice to the Senate for Attao, Magofna, and Reps. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota), and Leila Staffler (D-Saipan) to serve as the House prosecutorial team.

On Wednesday, Muna asked for an additional 30 days to have the deficiencies in the impeachment record corrected as she was only given 48 hours to do it. Hofschneider declined the request, noting that the House was given ample time,

including an earlier extension.

Senate clerk Dolores Bermudes informed Muña Monday that her office had identified numerous deficiencies in the official House Impeachment Record.

In his press statement yesterday, Hofschneider said the Senate has not received an impeachment record from the House that conforms with the Impeachment Rules in even the most "forgiving" reading of the rules.

Hofschneider said the proposed record claimed to include documents that were not present at all, pages lacked page numbers or any identifying marks, pages were out of order in the document, and over 3,000 pages were missing from the final document.

He said the Impeachment

Rules placed an "extremely light" burden on the House for the impeachment record.

The Senate president reiterated that those rules required the impeachment record to be organized by three very simple reasons—consecutive pagination, a table of contents, and organized first by Article of Impeachment and second by chronological order.

Hofschneider said it is apparent that the House clerk provided to the Senate exactly what was provided to her.

"Unfortunately, the documents provided to the House clerk did not include all of what was claimed to be included," he said.

To make things worse, Hofschneider said, the House chose not to include any transcripts of the proceedings as

required by Rule 9 (b). He said the House provided no explanation and, instead, maintains that the record was in substantial compliance.

Hofschneider said from the date of the passage of Impeachment Rules last March 3, the House had 14 days to prepare the record. He said the House asked for and received a seven-day extension pursuant to Rule 9 to provide the record to the Senate.

The Senate president said the House could have requested an additional extension pursuant to Rule 9 of any reasonable time it needed to submit the record. He said the House never made any such request.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

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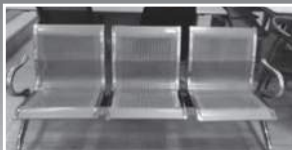
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DPL names 2nd Annual Scholarship Essay Contest winners

Gerald K. Crisostomo Jr. has won first place in the Department of Public Lands' 2nd Annual 2021 DPL Scholarship Essay Contest.

This year's competition sought to answer the question: "What can the CNMI do to strike a sustainable balance between land preservation and development?"

Crisostomo's victory nets him a cash prize amount of \$1,250, courtesy of Bibong Corp.

The other contest winners are:

■ 2nd Place—Bri'Ana T. Royal, award sponsored by

Saipan Stevedore Corp. in the amount of \$1,000

■ 3rd Place—Amea M. Reyes, award sponsored by Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc. in the amount of \$1,000

■ 4th Place—Manuel DLG Sablan, award sponsored by Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc. in the amount of \$1,000

■ Fifth Place—John David A. Reyes, award sponsored by Bibong Corp.

■ 6th Place—Ainah T. Chargualaf, award sponsored by A&M Corp. in the amount of \$500

■ 7th Place—Rica Ann S.

Dela Cruz, award sponsored by Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc. in the amount of \$500

■ 8th Place—Nazalie Mirzoin, award sponsored by Kenneth and Concepcion Coward in the amount of \$500

■ 9th Place—Vincent G. Tudela, award sponsored by Kenneth and Concepcion Coward in the amount of \$100

■ Honorable Mention—Tyler James Warwick (Saipan)—\$100

■ Honorable Mention: Maggie Mae A. Chaufauros (Tinian)—\$100

■ Honorable Mention: Roberta M. Maratita (Rota)—\$100

DPL launched its 2nd Annual 2021 DPL Scholarship Essay Contest this past February.

DPL thanks its lessees/annual scholarship sponsors for



Crisostomo

their generous public benefit commitment. "We would also like to thank Ms. Jo Anna Ada for her personal contribution of \$300 for the additional scholarship prizes given to the honorable mentions. This is Ms. Ada's second year in a row for her support," DPL said in a news release.

To see the award-winning essays, visit our website: <https://dpl.gov.mp/bpl-scholarship/>.

DPL is mandated to get the best and highest use of rent for public lands. DPL collects base rent and a percentage of BGR, meaning DPL also collects a percentage of any revenue derived from public land and we negotiate for the highest public benefit we can get. The scholarship benefit is a small component of all the public benefits that DPL has negotiated over the past few years. However, at all times, base rent, and a percentage of BGR is never compromised in lieu of public benefit. DPL continuously shifts public benefit to directly impact the lives of people of Northern Marianas descent. (PR)



Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor
Arnold I. Palacios
Lt. Governor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

DEQ: P.O. Box 501304, DCRM: P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950-1304

DEQ Tel.: (670) 664-8500/01; Fax: (670) 664-8540

DCRM Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315

www.deq.gov.mp and www.crm.gov.mp



Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Zehrana S. Cruz
Director, DEQ

Richard V. Salas
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUEST FOR CNMI WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act, activities that may result in a discharge to Waters of the United States and require a federal permit or license also receive Water Quality Certification. In issuing a Water Quality Certification for a federal permit or license, BECQ must assure that the proposed activity complies with all applicable provisions of the CNMI Water Quality Standards, will not interfere with the attainment or maintenance of the existing or designated uses of the Commonwealth waters, and that all appropriate and practicable steps have been taken to minimize potential adverse impacts to aquatic life and human health. Further, the Antidegradation Policy of the Water Quality Standards of the CNMI states that the protection and maintenance of the quality of the waters of the Commonwealth are an historic and legal right of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, and that this shall be the public policy of the Commonwealth. Upon receiving a request for certification, BECQ issues a public notification that describes the proposed activity and potential impacts on water quality, aquatic life and human health. A thirty (30) day public comment period will commence from the date of the publication of the notice.

The Administrator of BECQ may conduct a public hearing to solicit comments on the application if a hearing is requested by the public. BECQ will make a determination for issuing a Water Quality Certification based upon a complete technical review of the application and the public comments received.

BECQ is soliciting comments on the following request for a CNMI Water Quality Certification.

- 1. APPLICANT:** CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources
P.O. Box 10007
Saipan, MP 96950
- 2. APPLICABLE STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** CNMI Commonwealth Environmental Protection Act (Public Law No. 3-23); CNMI Water Quality Standards, Chapter 65-130
- 3. LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY:** Garapan Fishing Base, Garapan, Saipan
- 4. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY:** The proposed activity at Garapan Fishing Base includes the construction of a stabilizing rock revetment along of a 380-foot linear section of shoreline immediately south of the existing boat ramp structure. The proposed construction project would require excavation activities below the mean high water line. The project is being reviewed under US Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permits; therefore, it requires Water Quality Certification from BECQ in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. US Army Corps of Engineers is currently reviewing the proposed activity under Nationwide Permit Numbers 13 and 16.
- 5. IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED ACTION:** The discharge for which a federal permit(s) is required, and therefore Water Quality Certification is required, is associated with dredge and fill of material within waters of the US. Specifically, material will be excavated during the construction of the proposed rock revetment structure and placed in onshore dewatering systems. Sediment excavated may be reused on site as fill material. Geotextile and rock will be installed on site to serve as the new revetment structure. The proposed project activities have the potential to discharge sediment and exceed CNMI Water Quality Standards for turbidity and Total Suspended Solids. These pollutants can have a negative impact on aquatic life including coral and seagrass.
- 6. PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES:** During construction, the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources (DLNR) will be subject to all applicable Best Management Practices and compliance with CNMI Water Quality Standards. DLNR has developed a Water Quality Monitoring Plan to ensure that CNMI Water Quality standards will not be violated during construction. As part of the Water Quality Monitoring Plan, DLNR and the construction contractor will generate baseline water quality data for turbidity and then assess water quality during construction activities.

Written comments should be submitted to DEQ within thirty (30) days of the date of publication of this notice. Please email comments to cnmi.waterquality@gmail.com.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

TWO (2) TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

Design, plan, organize, and provide ongoing outreach, training, consultation, coaching services, and other targeted/customized professional development supports to child care providers, teachers, parents, partner agencies, and community members; Develop and present early childhood training information using a variety of instructional manuals, guides, or course materials, such as handouts or visual materials; **Develop and facilitate training and technical assistance around best practices (e.g. health and safety standards, child development, developmentally appropriate practices) for children ages 0 to 12;** Conduct scheduled and unscheduled observations and assessments of providers as directed to meet established standards; Work with providers to define specific, focused and clear goals and quality improvement plans; Orient and train providers according to established quality standards; Recognize high and low-quality early childhood interactions, instructional support, and environments; Collect, interpret, and use data for quality improvement purposes; Ensure that training materials are up to date with new developments for child care providers, teachers, parents, partner agencies, and community members; Understand, interpret, and implement all components of the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) ratings and improvement supports; Monitor program progress towards achieving quality; Understand responsibilities as a mandated reporter (including preparing and presenting information to providers, the community, and stakeholders); Document work using the program's computer-based data system; Develop and maintain schedules for on-site visits based on program need; Participate in professional development provided by Evergreen Learning and consultant partners; Participate in coach framework fidelity checks; Maintain provider, family, and child confidentiality; Maintain 60 hours of annual professional development; and, Perform all other related duties.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor's Degree in Education with emphasis in early childhood education;
- Minimum of three (3) years teaching experience in early childhood education with at least two (2) years training and development experience.

WORKING CONDITIONS:

- Flexible hours that include evenings & weekends not to exceed 40/hrs. a week; &
- Travel within Saipan and be able to travel periodically to the islands of the CNMI (Rota & Tinian) to work with licensed and license-exempt providers for professional development.

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

Evergreen Learning, Inc.
MSV Building, Unit 202, 2nd Floor, Chalan Kanoa
P.O. Box 501931, Saipan, MP 96950
Contact no. 670-235-1377
or by e-mail to: jobs@evergreenlearning.org

WE ARE AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

PUBLIC NOTICE

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) is considering a request for Federal assistance from 500 Sails to construct a Cultural Maritime Training Center in Lower Base, Saipan, CNMI. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), EDA is conducting an assessment of the potential of the proposed project to affect the environment and/or historic properties. Notice is hereby given that the project is proposed to be located in, or may affect, a floodplain and/or wetland as defined by Executive Order (EO) 11988 and / or EO 11990.

The project involves renovation and new construction of the former Division of Procurement warehouse and does not expand the existing footprint of the warehouse. The project is located in Lower Base, Saipan, specifically, Lot No. 252 E 01, adjacent to the Department of Lands and Natural Resources building. Project information is available for review at the 500 Sails office at the project location or by contacting Tel. No. (670) 323-7245.

If you have any information regarding potential impacts to historic properties or environmental resources including wetlands or floodplains associated with this proposed project please provide it in writing to:

Rowena Defato
Regional Environmental Officer
Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration
rdefato@eda.gov
(206) 220-7703

Comments received in the EDA Regional Environmental Office by 5:00 p.m., Pacific time on May 09, 2022 will be considered. A copy of NEPA/NHPA decisional document will be available upon request at the above EDA Regional Office.



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Sales Consultant

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2017 KIA RIO LX
STOCK # H6034827, FWD, 4CYL, Automatic,
Est. Mileage: 22,888, Color: BLUE

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\$10,995**



2015 NISSAN ALTIMA SV
STOCK # FC475899 FWD, 4 CYL 2.5L, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 44,069, Color: SILVER

**NOW
\$14,995**



2020 NISSAN VERSA S
STOCK # LL918897, FWD, 4-CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 7,340, Color: GRAY

**NOW
\$18,600**



2015 CHEVY CAMARO LT
STOCK # F9140085, RWD, 6CYL, Auto
Est. Mileage: 38,188 Color: YELLOW

**NOW
\$18,995**



2020 KIA SOUL LX
STOCK # L7050251, FWD, 4-Cyl, Automatic
Est. Mileage: 26,057, Color: GOLD

**NOW
\$19,600**



2020 KIA SOUL LX
STOCK # L7048353, FWD, 4-Cyl, Auto
Est. Mileage: 23128, Color: BLUE

**NOW
\$19,600**



2019 HONDA CIVIC LX
STOCK # KE008511, FWD, 4-Cyl, Automatic
Est. Mileage: 39,000, Color: BLUE

**NOW
\$19,995**



2019 NISSAN SENTRA S
STOCK # KY206649, FWD, 4-Cyl, 1.8 Liter, Automatic,
CVT w/Xtronic, Est. Mileage: 29,969, Color: GRAY

**NOW
\$19,995**



2021 KIA SELTOS
STOCK # M715216, FWD, 4-Cyl, Automatic
Est. Mileage: 13,618 Color: BLUE

**NOW
\$20,600**



2019 HONDA HRV LX
STOCK # KM703170, AWD, 4-Cyl, Auto
Est. Mileage: 23,388, Color: RED

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\$20,995**



2019 HONDA HR-V SPORT
STOCK # KM701264, FWD, 4-CYL, Auto
Est. Mileage: 32,888, Color: SILVER

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\$21,995**



2016 HONDA PILOT
STOCK # GB09963, AWD, V6 i-TEC 3.5L, Automatic,
Est. Mileage: 48,324, Color: Silver

**NOW
\$22,600**



2019 KIA SPORTAGE LX
STOCK # K7616519, AWD, 4 CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 24,995, Color: BRONZE

**NOW
\$24,995**



2019 NISSAN FRONTIER
STOCK # KN730460, RWD, 4 CYL, Auto,
Est. Mileage: 29,000, Color: SILVER

**NOW
\$25,600**



2020 NISSAN SENTRA SR
STOCK # LY249008, FWD, 4CYL 2.0 L, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 388, Color: MAROON

**NOW
\$26,600**



2019 HONDA CIVIC HB
STOCK # KU228086, FWD, 4CYL, AUTO,
Est. Mileage: 16468, Color: RALLY RED

**NOW
\$27,995**



2020 TOYOTA RAV4 LE
STOCK # LD045929, FWD, 4CYL, Auto
Mileage: 14,718, Color: BLACK

**NOW
\$28,995**



2019 NISSAN FRONTIER K/C SV
STOCK # KN744061, 2WD, 4 CYL, Auto
Est. Mileage: 17,056, Color: GRAY

\$29,600



2018 FORD TRANSIT 350 MR
STOCK # JKA83069, XL, RWD, V6, Flex Fuel
Est. Mileage: 22,379, Color: WHITE

**NOW
\$35,995**



2017 FORD TRANSIT
STOCK # HKB27013, RWD, V6, EcoBoost, Twin Turbo
Est. Mileage: 54,249, Color: SILVER

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JOETEN CUSTOMER CHECKLIST

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SERVICE

FREE SHUTTLE
RIDES

48 HOUR VEHICLE
EXCHANGE

‘House Impeachment record complies with letter, spirit of rules’

The following is a statement from the CNMI House of Representatives leadership in response to Senate president Jude Hofschneider's letter Wednesday, April 6, 2022.

Approximately 10 days after the transmittal of the House Impeachment record to the Senate, the Senate clerk issued a letter that claimed that the House Impeachment record was deficient, and that the Impeachment matter would be dismissed if the alleged deficiencies were not properly addressed within 48 hours. Based on a comparison between the applicable rules and the record that was submitted, we respectfully disagree.

The House clerk meticulously arranged and categorized everything in the Impeachment record. Nearly all of the

House Impeachment record consists of documents that were submitted to the Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee by government witnesses and prepared by their taxpayer-paid attorneys. These documents were submitted to the JGO out of chronological order, pursuant to subpoenas and Open Government Act requests. Documents were submitted to the JGO with misspellings and typographical errors, and sometimes without dates. These documents still had evidentiary value. Long before the Senate Impeachment rules were adopted, the House organized these documents in a way that made sense and would be useful for prosecution of the governor in the Senate trial. Every page, every image, every video, and every transcript in the House Im-

peachment Record is exactly where it needs to be.

Nevertheless, given the limited time available, we made a good faith effort to address the concerns raised by the Senate clerk; however, we require a reasonable extension of time in order to address all of the issues raised. Despite our best efforts, the House cannot reorganize over 8,000 pages in 48 hours. This monumental task is simply not feasible. Moreover, what purpose would this total overhaul serve? For whose benefit?

We maintain that the House Impeachment record complies with the letter and the spirit of the Senate Impeachment rules. Significantly, under the CNMI Constitution, even if there were actual deficiencies in the House Impeachment record, only the full Senate can dispose of the

Impeachment matter. The Impeachment of Gov. Torres cannot be decided by the Senate clerk, nor any one person within the CNMI Legislature. The House Impeachment record is not defective because some supporting documents are not in chronological order. The House Impeachment record clearly supports the Articles of Impeachment. With some help from the House prosecutors, the record speaks for itself.

The House Impeachment record shows theft and how the governor illegally obtained over \$177,000 (and counting) in taxpayer-funded utilities. The record shows corruption and abuse of power. It lists over 54 premium-class airfare trips for himself and his spouse, and at least 85 boating trips accompanied by Boating Safety officers. All told, since 2015, the

House Impeachment record shows that Gov. Torres misused and abused over \$550,000 in CNMI and federal funds, to cover his illegal airfare, his lodging for personal vacations and political events, and his reimbursements for other lavish personal items.

Impeachment is not about overruling of the will of the people. Impeachment is a protection that is provided by the CNMI Constitution for a very important reason: to protect the Commonwealth from public officials who abuse their power. The House Impeachment record spans 8,000 pages and is replete with evidence of theft, corruption, and neglect over six years of Gov. Torres' administration. This is a record that cannot be ignored and must not be dismissed.

The Senate has a solemn

obligation to carefully review the House Impeachment record and hear the merits of the Impeachment case. They should weigh the evidence and seek the truth, not look for ways to dismiss the record and end this Impeachment based on technicalities.

It is our collective hope that the Senate will take the opportunity to review the Impeachment Record closely and methodically. If they did so, we are confident the Senate would reach the conclusion that there is sufficient evidence to convict Gov. Torres. We also continue to hope for a fair trial before the Senate, with a team of House prosecutors duly appointed by the Speaker. We are ready to fully and vigorously present our case, as soon as the Senate is ready to hear it. **(PR)**



**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
www.cnmiports.com

AMENDED NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PASSENGER LOADING BRIDGES 1, 4 AND 5 REPLACEMENT AND ISOLATED SPALL REPAIRS TO PCC PAVEMENT AT GATES 1, 2, 3, 4 AND 5**, SAIPAN, OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-002-20.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *“Passenger Loading Bridges 1, 4 and 5 Replacement and Isolated Spall Repairs to PCC Pavement at Gates 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, Project No. CPA-SA-002-20”* and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to replacement of three existing passenger boarding bridges at Gates 1, 4, and 5 with new apron-drive bridges and isolated spall repairs to PCC pavement at Gates 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport including all associated work, all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). The Contract provides that the Contractor shall invoice for labor and materials for passenger boarding bridge replacement at Gate 1 separately from the invoice for passenger boarding bridges replacement at Gates 4 and 5 and spall repairs at Gates 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 (which may be invoiced together).

The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FIVE HUNDRED SIXTY EIGHT (568) calendar days if awarded all three bridges**. Duration may adjust based on funding availability which will determine the number of bridges to be replaced.

Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND (\$1,000.00) Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are “responsive and responsible.” This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be “responsive or responsible”, their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

A DVD containing the plans and specification, including the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$250.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the “Commonwealth Ports Authority”.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 a.m., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2022**, at the Saipan Airport Conference Room, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date.

Each bid proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders shall use the bid schedule form available on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-24 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: March 31, 2022



**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
www.cnmiports.com

AMENDED NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER RENOVATION PROJECT**, SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-004-17.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *“Air Traffic Control Tower Renovation Project for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, Project No. CPA-SA-004-17”* and submitted no later than **2:00 PM, MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, CPA Administration, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as wear a face mask at all times while at the airport.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited, repairs and improvements to the Air Traffic Control Tower inclusive of restrooms, kitchens, ceiling, flooring, walls, cab and catwalk, diagonal bracings, antenna supports, air conditioning, ventilation, plumbing, fire, jockey pump systems, electrical equipment and other miscellaneous work on non-damaged components necessary for required repair of damaged components, all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY (420) calendar days**.

Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND (\$1,000.00) Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (US \$250.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the “Commonwealth Ports Authority”. Bidders should notify CPA immediately if there are issues retrieving the files in the DVD.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the ARFF Classroom at the Saipan Airport Fire Station, at **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2022**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. The pre-bid and site visit are not mandatory. However, it is the bidders' responsibility to familiarize themselves with the project location and conditions. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as face wear a mask at all times while at the airport. For site visits after the pre-bid conference, bidders are to coordinate with Mr. Edward Mendiola, CPA's Deputy Director, at edmendiola@cnmiports.com or telephone number (670) 237-6505.

Bidders attention is called to the fact that this is a renovation project, and the bid is to be lump sum inclusive of all work described in the contract documents including all labor, equipment, materials (including excess waste materials), necessary fittings and accessories. Lump sum work shall include all work on existing concealed elements referenced by the contract documents or required for completion of any other elements specifically referenced in the contract documents.

Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least fourteen (14) days prior to the bid opening date.

Each bid proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders shall use the bid schedule form available on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are “responsive and responsible.” This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be “responsive or responsible”, their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-27 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: March 10, 2022

Rotary



COMMUNITY EGG-STRAVAGANZA Easter EVENT!

Saturday, April 9, 2022, Start Time: 9am
Sugar King Park (Across Golds Gym
& Garapan Central Park)

Egg hunt for the following age groups:

Toddlers (Ages 1 & 2)
Pre-School (Ages 3-5)
Elementary (Ages 6-10)
Middle School (Ages 11-13)

Bring Your Baskets!

Designated areas per age group. Toddlers will be assisted by parents.
Parents are advised to arrive earlier than the start time.

After Egg Hunting,
join us at the NMI Museum
for food and even more activities!

Easter Egg Decoration Contest

For High School Students
(Ages 14-18):

Interested participants,
use this link to register!

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/vwWY2ICtfvIRpeJV6>
(Note: Only one submission per person)

Saturday, April 9, 2022
Eggs should be submitted by 9am.
Winners will be announced at 12pm
NMI Museum Grounds (Across Sugar King Park)

Over 500
Goody bags
while supplies last.
Bouncy house/slides,
over 18 vendors,
lots of prizes
to claim from
the eggs.



thank you to our partners

Rotaract
Club of Saipan



Interact
Rotary Sponsored Club



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Entertainment provided by: Marvin Deleon Guerrero, RJR Band.

For More Information, Contact Rotarysaipan@gmail.com,
Director Of Community Service Joann Aquino At (670) 285-6961
or Secretary Jessy Loomis At (670) 789-1228

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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EDITORIAL

The carnage in Bucha was evil. Its architect, Vladimir Putin, must be held accountable

The images bring to mind Srebrenica, the Bosnian town where Serb troops tortured and summarily executed thousands of Bosnians, mostly men and boys, in 1995. The international community branded that horrible chapter of the Bosnian war as genocide, and it's with the specter of Srebrenica that the world now must investigate the atrocities revealed this weekend in Bucha, a small Ukrainian town northwest of Kyiv.

Bodies of men in civilian clothes lay in the streets, some of them with their hands bound behind their backs. They were shot dead while Russian troops occupied the small town for about a month, Ukrainian officials and witnesses say. Some had gunshot wounds to the head. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy even said some victims had been decapitated.

As many as 118 bodies had been buried in mass graves, said the town's mayor. Some bodies were found stuffed into manholes. Human Rights Watch reported it had documented evidence of repeated rape and summary executions by the Russian military in the Kyiv, Chernihiv and Kharkiv regions.

It's not enough that the Western world sees what happened in Bucha. In a video released Sunday night, Zelenskyy said it was vital that Russians, particularly Russian mothers, see it as well.

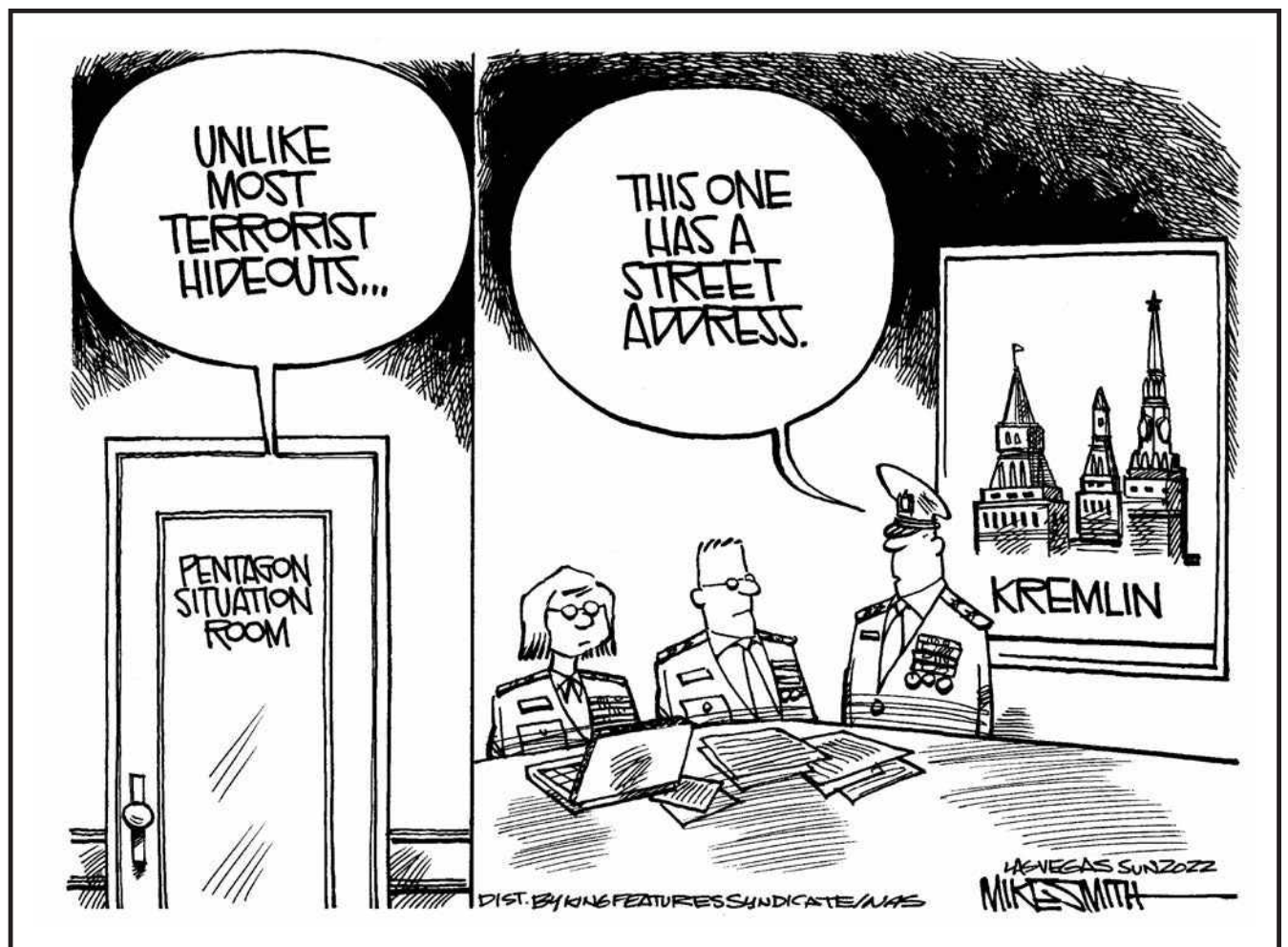
"I want every mother of every Russian soldier to see the bodies of the killed people in Bucha, in Irpin, in Hostomel," Zelenskyy said. "Why were ordinary civilians in an ordinary peaceful city tortured to death?"

"Russian mothers! Even if you raised looters, how did they also become butchers?" he continued. "You couldn't be unaware of what's inside your children. You couldn't overlook that they are deprived of everything human. No soul. No heart."

Well before Bucha, Western leaders had been calling for an investigation into war crimes committed by Russian soldiers, and by the architect of the brutality inflicted on Ukraine, Vladimir Putin. But the harrowing carnage depicted in footage from Bucha cements the need for an exhaustive, unfettered probe into atrocities in Ukraine.

Under international law, the intentional killing of civilians or prisoners of war amounts to a war crime. So does the rape or torture of civilians or war prisoners. The law applies to soldiers who commit or abet the acts, as well as commanders who knew or had reason to know about the crimes but did nothing to intervene.

Prosecuting those responsible for what happened in Bucha, from Russian soldiers to Putin himself, essentially would amount to a symbolic exercise. The International Court of Justice gets its enforcement authority from the United Na-

See **BUCHA** on Next Page

Stigma failed Kurt Cobain nearly 30 years ago and continues to fail people in addiction now

On or around April 5, 1994, Kurt Cobain died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head, with a lethal dose of heroin in his blood. The biggest rock star in the world was gone at the age of 27.

Few people had to deal with the sudden fame that the Nirvana frontman experienced—his album took the No. 1 spot on the charts from Michael Jackson before age 25. But there are parts of the rock legend's story that are common among many people struggling with addiction: childhood trauma, housing instability, and chronic physical pain.

And, like so many others in addiction, Cobain lost many opportunities to feel better because of stigma and outmoded drug laws—both of which continue today.

Cobain used heroin for the first time in 1987—recreationally, as he used many other drugs. That changed in the fall of 1991, when he was on the precipice of global fame. Cobain later wrote: "I decided to use heroine on a daily basis because of an ongoing stomach ailment that I had been suffering from for the past five years, [and that] had literally taken me to the point of wanting to kill myself. ...The only thing I found that worked were heavy opiates."

During a 1992 tour, when Cobain couldn't get heroin abroad, his stomach started bothering him again. He told the *Los Angeles Times*: "We went to this doctor who gave me these tablets that were methadone." Methadone is a long-acting opioid that is used as a medication for opioid addiction. But Cobain stopped taking it in the U.S. and resumed using heroin.

Instead, at the end of the summer of 1992, Cobain entered a 60-day intensive detox program—at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles—where the goal is to support people while they go through withdrawal.

His daughter, Frances Bean, was born in August 1992 at the same hospital where her father was hospitalized for detox. His wife, Courtney Love, dragged him to her delivery room. Later she told *Rolling Stone* reporter Michael Azerrad that Cobain was vomiting and fainting in the room as his daughter came into the world.

But inpatient rehab didn't work for Cobain, and he started using heroin again. Like so many people with an opioid use disorder, detox and abstinence were just not the right path for him.

As a new dad, Cobain started a regime with a controversial addiction doctor who specialized in treating famous people, according to Charles Cross' biography of Cobain, *Heavier Than Heaven*. He gave Cobain buprenorphine, a long-acting opioid that is

By **ABRAHAM GUTMAN**
The Philadelphia Inquirer



considered even safer than methadone. Cobain wrote in his journal: "I was introduced to buprenorphine, which I found alleviates the [stomach] pain within minutes ... It acts as an opiate, but it doesn't get you high."

Buprenorphine is now considered the gold standard of treatment for opioid use disorder. But in 1992, the treatment was illegal.

It's not clear from Cobain's biographies exactly how consistent his buprenorphine treatment was. In the summer of 1993, the physician who prescribed him the medication died. So Cobain was on his own. And his addiction escalated.

Ten days before Cobain died, his wife and nine of his friends staged an intervention in his Seattle house. A few days later, Cobain entered abstinence-based treatment for the final time. He lasted two days.

What is so painful about Cobain's journey is that it is so common. According to the American Psychological Association, upwards of 90% of people relapse following abstinence-based detoxification. A study comparing treatment options for opioid use disorder found that those who entered rehab or detox services were more likely to return within three months than those who received a medication like buprenorphine.

And yet, even as a person dies of an overdose every five minutes in the U.S., many people seeking treatment for opioid addiction do not receive medication.

There is a false notion, rooted in stigma, that methadone and buprenorphine only "replace one addiction with another." And it continues to drive policy. In truth, these medications remove cravings and the harms associated with addiction.

The goal of addiction treatment should be to ensure wellness and safety, not abstinence from any and all substances—Kurt Cobain tried that, multiple times, and it failed him. To address the overdose crisis, America must stick to evidence with empathy, not demands of sobriety. Because, as Love later said of the hardline approach to treating her husband: "It doesn't work. It's not real. It doesn't work."

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

An active lifestyle will allow us to live longer and healthier lives with our families

Testing positive for COVID-19 and having to isolate myself with my family for five days reinforced in me the importance of taking care of our health. Thankfully, my family and I were all able to recover, but it made me realize how beneficial a healthier lifestyle could be. I decided then that I would personally commit to prioritizing my health for myself and, most importantly, for my family.

Not too long after I announced my decision to make positive health changes, mixed martial arts champion Frank “The Crank” Camacho challenged me to commit to this lifestyle. I was moved by this challenge and asked him to create a regimen that will get me to where I need to be. This will allow me more time with my family and our community. This level of effort is not required for anyone in the community to strive for, but I encourage everyone to do what they can to commit to prioritizing their health for themselves and for their family.

The Governor’s Council of Economic Advisers’ mission has always been to improve quality of life for our residents. One way we can do that is by improving the overall health of our population. Making a change now can positively improve the health for our future generations.

In a 2019 report from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., lifestyle changes and dependence on imported, processed foods were reported as factors for widespread hypertension, cardiovas-



**GOVERNOR'S
COUNCIL OF
ECONOMIC
ADVISERS**

cular disease, diabetes, and cancer within our CNMI residents. Eighty-three percent of Northern Marianas descent are overweight or obese, putting the majority of the CNMI’s indigenous population at increased risk for non-communicable disease.

With this specific reason, I started my “Fit to Lead” fitness journey, because I learned that if we don’t make time for our health, we will have to make time later in life to repair it. I chose to make the change now, so I can have more time to watch my family grow.

My motivation for starting this fitness journey was my family, most especially my children. Like every other father figure, caring for my family is my main priority. I knew that I needed to be around longer to take care of them. As your governor, I am also committed to living and leading a fit lifestyle so I can be the best to take care of our community.

Something that has helped me stay motivated on this fitness journey is mixing up my routine, so that I always look forward to my workout. I noticed that I have had more energy since I started this journey, which equates to more quality time with my family. This has also been one of the strongest motivating factors to continue pushing through, even when it gets hard. Having to start my day earlier, I have more time to meet with my senior staff to discuss and plan initiatives and projects for the betterment of our islands. I also feel more energetic as we are out serving the amazing people of the CNMI.

It hasn’t been easy though because food is a big part of our culture. Whenever I go to gatherings, I am always offered food. At the beginning of this health challenge, I had to set my mind on managing what I ate. I have been more conscious of my intake

TOGETHER, WE CAN By RALPH DLG TORRES

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ralph DLG Torres is the ninth governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and is co-chairman of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers.



and have incorporated healthier foods into my diet, like local fruits and vegetables.

Through the many ups and downs along the way, I’ve had incredible support from the community, my wife, and my children to help me push through. We can do that for each other.

Little things can go a long way, and I encourage our community to do what they can to start living healthier. Take it one step at a time, one day at a time, and one meal at a time. I also encourage our leaders to join me in leading our community to a healthier, active, and fit lifestyle!

As we celebrate Earth Month, let’s also develop good habits of taking care of our environment. When you’re out on a beach walk, taking a few minutes to pick up trash is a great start. Let’s all do our part to make the CNMI a clean, world-class destination for our visitors and, most importantly, our community. Our environment plays a big role in our overall health and wellness. Let’s be sure to take good care of it and ourselves.

For more information, visit the GCEA at cnmieconomy.com, on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy), or contact them at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

What a true leader would do

I can’t believe this guy anymore. You would think that he’d hold himself responsible for his actions but that doesn’t seem to be the case here. Hiring expensive out-of-town attorneys and basically living like a king is just par for the course. When will he finally man up and declare that the buck stops with him? He needs to stop his diatribe and do the right thing! Nixon did it and declared that no matter what happened, the bottom line is that he’s ultimately responsible for any and all actions either by himself or his Cabinet.

Kenny Rogers said it best: “You gotta know when to hold it, know when to fold it. . . .” And stop using the retirees as a political pawn and accusing the House of doing it. Tai mamalao? How can you sleep with everything that’s going on? I truly believe you think you’re above the law. You’ve got to excuse my spelling because, although I speak a little bit of Chamorro, I can’t spell a lot of the words! Ti ma’maigu si yu’us! God is not sleeping! Grow up, young man, and take responsibility for your actions. At least that’s what a true leader would do.

Michael Geisinger
Guam

BUCHA

From Page 10

tions Security Council, and Russia still wields veto power on that body.

But the meaning of such a prosecution would be far from trivial. A war crimes conviction indelibly stains, even if the criminal never serves a day behind bars. It brands the person convicted as a butcher, and that’s something no amount of time or propaganda can erase.

Sadly, the images from Bucha are not surprising. They fit into a continuum of indefensible actions taken by Putin that include the bombing of a maternity hospital in the southern port city of Mariupol, and deliberate missile attacks and shelling on scores of apartment buildings, schools and other civilian edifices across the country. The barbarity seen in Bucha sickens, but in the context of Putin’s actions since the invasion began Feb. 24, it hardly seems like an aberration in the Kremlin’s blueprint for Ukraine.

Reaction from the West to the scenes in Bucha has been swift and strong. Two European leaders, Poland’s Prime Minister Ma-

By JOHN ALLEN CABRERA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

As I interact with young parents with children with autism, I am inspired by their patience and dedication to working with professionals, doctors, and service providers to provide the best possible help for their family and kids.

Autism by definition is a condition that affects how a person thinks, feels, and interacts with others. It is a lifelong disability acquired since birth. Every person with autism is different.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, autism affects 1 in 44 children in the United States today.

Early signs of autism are not responding to their names, avoiding eye contact, repetitive movements, and many other behaviors on a spectrum. I came into contact with a 2-year-old boy who was fascinated by the tires on my wheelchair. He would always try to push me so that the tires turn and he would get so excited. I noticed he was always holding on to a toy car on one hand. His

teusz Morawiecki and Spain’s Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, said the actions of Russian soldiers should be construed as “genocide.” Zelenskyy characterized it the same way. On Monday, President Joe Biden called Putin “a war criminal,” adding that “we have to gather all the detail so this can be an actual . . . war crimes trial.”

Predictably, Russian leaders deny committing any atrocities in Bucha. Putin’s foreign minister, Sergey Lavrov, said what happened in that Kyiv region town was a “fake attack,” an exercise in propaganda “fomented on all channels and social media by Ukrainian representatives and their Western patrons.”

Lavrov’s denial only bolsters Zelenskyy’s call for Russians to look beyond Kremlin-controlled media to learn what really happened in Bucha. Lately, polls show a burgeoning number of Russians rallying behind Putin and his invasion of Ukraine, principally because Russian state media continues to paint the Kremlin as a benevolent entity rescuing Ukraine from a corrupt, fascist regime in Kyiv. A lens into the atrocities in Bucha should help Russians understand where the malevolence really lies.

Despite these wrenching images from Bucha, Western lead-

parents said he was into cars and tires. So I let him do whatever he wanted to do with my wheelchair. It was fun to see him get excited over something so random as a wheelchair tire. I can only imagine the daily challenges faced by people with autism. It is estimated that 25% to 50% of kids diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder never develop a spoken language, making it difficult to communicate.

April 2022 is Autism Awareness Month. This year’s theme is “Inclusion in the workplace: Challenges and Opportunities in a Post-Pandemic World.” I have attended several autism night and hotdog run events that raised awareness about autism. All proceeds went to a good cause.

Please join me and celebrate Autism Awareness Month in April as we recognize children, parents and individuals with autism.

For more information contact NMPASI at (670) 235-7273/4 or visit us on the web at www.nmpasi.org, www.facebook.com/NMPASI, and follow us on Instagram @nmpasi670.

John Allen Cabrera is a client advocate at the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.

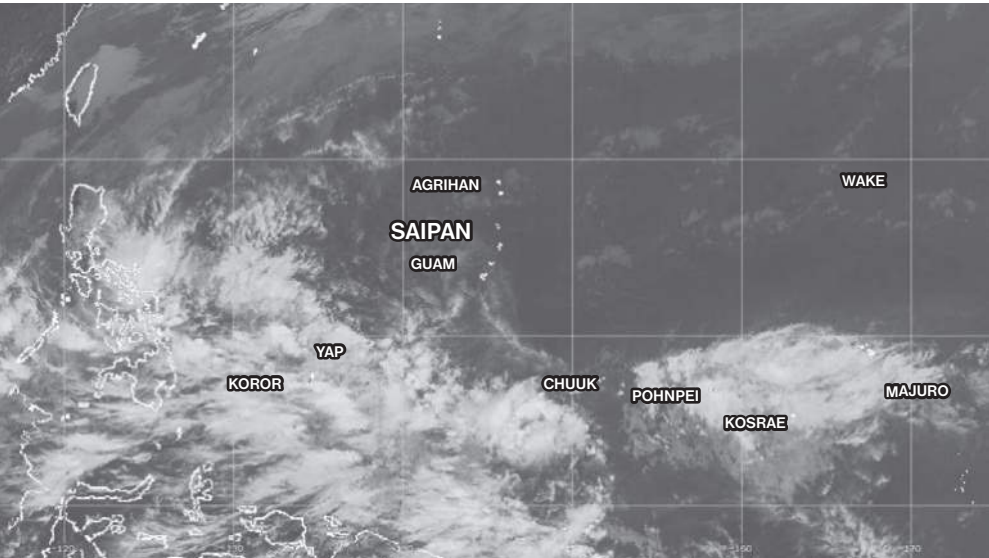
ers should not lose sight of the most immediate goal—an end to this destructive, needless war, coupled with a peace that ensures Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. The atrocities will make negotiations that much more difficult. But as long as channels remain open between Ukraine and Russia, dialogue should continue. Dialogue doesn’t mean capitulation.

Still, a long-term scenario is emerging—one that was impossible to envision in the context of the world before the invasion of Ukraine. A Russia led by Putin can no longer be trusted as a geopolitical and economic partner. As long as Putin remains in power, he and his government should be made to endure as a pariah state, disconnected from Western banks, trade and nations that espouse free will and the rule of law. That scenario should also include accountability for Putin for the mounting tally of war crimes in Ukraine.

Whenever that happens, the corpses of Bucha surely will be Exhibit #1.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
Mostly sunny, Breezy, with an east wind 17 to 22 mph, with gusts as high as 28 mph.		Partly sunny Breezy, with an east wind 16 to 23 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.		Cloudy, Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm.		Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.	
85°	78°	86°	77°	86°	77°	85°	76°	85°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 9:25 AM, THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The Marianas remain locked in a dry trade-wind regime. This will allow the fire danger to continue increasing, with the KBDI now 618. This is in the Very High fire danger category because of the strong winds in the Marianas at this time. Therefore maintained all of the advisories for the Marianas, as, indirectly at least, they are all based on the fresh to strong winds which are happening now and are expected to continue. The Red Flag Warning will end early, not because the winds are reducing, but because the moisture will likely increase. The high risk of rip currents will continue through at least Sunday night.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

onds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy/Wind	30 / 25 °F	
Palau	Thunderstorms	28 / 25 °F	
Yap	Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	28 / 26 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	06:07 AM	18:30 PM
Saturday	06:07 AM	18:30 PM
Sunday	06:06 AM	18:30 PM
Monday	06:05 AM	x 18:30 PM
Tuesday	06:05 AM	18:30 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:01	-	-
Saturday	-	00:31 PM	11:52 PM
Sunday	1-	01:20 PM	12:45 PM
Monday	-	02:07 PM	13:38 PM
Tuesday	-	02:51 PM	14:31 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 28, 2022

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:40AM	7:20AM	1, 3, 5	UA116	5:00AM	5:45AM	1, 3, 5
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	2, 4, 6, 7	UA116	8:00AM	8:45AM	6, 7
				UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	2, 4
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	6:35AM	8:35AM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7	R110	10:35PM	4:35AM+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:05AM+1	5 via Palau
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5
UA117/183	6:40AM	9:10PM	1, 3, 5 via Guam	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/193	6:40AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/116	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	2, 4, 6, 7 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				UA184/116	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
RS112	3:15PM	7:00PM	3, 6	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 7 via Guam
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	4, 7	UA184/116	10:55pm	8:46am+1	6 via Guam
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6	INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3	RS111	8:15AM	1:35PM	3, 6
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6	7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
7C3451	2:00PM	5:20PM	3, 7	TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 7
				OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
				7C3452	8:00AM	1:00PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily	3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM		3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
				2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
				2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

OPA outreach on Tinian and Rota

To all appointed/elected Commonwealth officials, boards, councils or task force members or directors, commissioners, executive directors including acting (in excess of 90 days) executive director, managing directors, deputy directors, administrators, or similar positions on your board, council, commission, task force or agency:

The staff of the Office of the Public Auditor will be on Tinian on Monday, April 11, 2022, from 9am to 3pm at the Tinian Mayor's Office and on Rota on Tuesday, April 12, 2022, from 1:30pm to 4:30pm and Wednesday, April 13, 2022, from 8am to 3pm at the Rota Mayor's Office to notarize and accept filings of financial disclosure statements from government officials.

All filers are reminded to bring with them some form of valid photo identification, such as a driver's license or a passport. Failure to do so may result in the denial of notary services. For any inquiries, contact OPA at 322-6481. (PR)

Small craft advisory until Monday

A small craft advisory remains in effect until 6am Monday

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, east winds 15 to 25 knots and seas 7 to 9 feet will be building to between 8 and 10 feet Friday night until 6am Monday. Conditions will be hazardous to small craft. Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in hazardous conditions. (PR)

Rip currents until Sunday night

The public is being warned of a high risk of rip currents along east reefs through Sunday night.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point,

AGAPE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**BOOKKEEPER (Local Hire)**

Agape Christian School is looking for a skilled Bookkeeper to maintain our financial records, including purchases, sales, receipts and payments.

The job duties include working closely with our school Office team to create and analyze financial reports and ensure legal requirements compliance, process accounts payable and receivable and manage invoices and tax payments. Our ideal candidate holds a Finance degree (preferably followed by accounting CPE courses) and is familiar with accounting software packages.

Interested candidate please call: (670) 9898570 or email: acssaipan@gmail.com

dangerous rip currents are present along east facing reefs of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota through Sunday night.

Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water. The public is advised to stay out of the water along east facing reefs. Elsewhere, swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help. (PR)

4.6-magnitude quake in Maug region

At 10:45pm on April 4, 2022, a report of a 4.6-magnitude earthquake occurred 19.786°N 145.446°E of Maug Island region, Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, there are no tsunami Warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. (PR)

Guam PTAC offers free webinars

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars in April.

Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted

via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ 4/14/22 – Teaming & JVs – What are they and which is right for your business? The Guam PTAC will discuss the Federal regulations related to these arrangements and

discuss ways to use these arrangements effectively.

■ 4/21/22 – Service Contract Act – The Service Contract Act (SCA) requires contractors and subcontractors performing services on prime contracts in excess of \$2,500 to pay service employees prevailing wages. We will discuss the details of the SCA

and how contractors can stay in compliance.

■ 4/28/22 – GovGuam Procurement – The Guam PTAC will explain Government of Guam Procurement, where to find opportunities, and how to submit bids.

Register on our website: <https://www.guamptac.com/> (PR)

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**Office of the Public Auditor**

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Website: <http://opacnmi.com>
1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 501399, Saipan, MP 96950
E-mail Address: mail@opacnmi.com
Phone: (670) 322-6481 | Fax: (670) 322-7812

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: March 25, 2022 Closing Date: April 8, 2022

POSITION:
AUDITOR I

EXAMINATION NO.:
OPA-22-001

For more information, please visit our website at www.opacnmi.com or come visit us at our office in Capitol Hill. Interested persons may also pick up a copy of the Examination Announcement at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in Garapan. Applicants are required to complete the OPA Employment Application form.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MANUEL JOSE ALVAREZ :
(NAME OF FATHER) :

HELIO MANUEL SHAO : FCD PA
(NAME OF CHILD) : CIVIL ACTION
PLAINTIFFS : NO. 22-0130
:
VS. : SUMMONS FOR
:
YANQIN SHAO : PUBLICATION
(NAME OF MOTHER) :
DEFENDANT :

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:
YANQIN SHAO

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after the service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Plaintiff whose address is Box 10003 PMB 86, Garapan Saipan as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgment by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 6th day of April, 2022.

/s/ Clerk of Court

**DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950
Gualo Rai Center, Saipan, TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION**
As of April 8, 2022

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Resources Management International Corporation (RMIC)	01/28/2022 SMS-2022-015	Rock Crushing & Rock Quarry Operations	As Matusi, Saipan	Major Siting	Approved* 04/05/2022
2. Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC)	03/15/2022 SPK-2022-021	Staging, Stockpiling & Maintenance	Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 04/01/2022
3. Shining Star, Inc. Shining Star Trading	03/23/2022 SMS-2022-022	Transfer of Interest	Chalan Kanoa, Saipan	Major Siting	Under Review*
4. Infrastructure & Recovery Program (IRP)	03/23/2022 SSm-2022-023	Renovation of Sugar Dock Shelter	Chalan Kanoa, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 04/01/2022
5. Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA)	04/01/2022 SSm-2022-024	Taste of the Marianas Festival of Cultures	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Under Review*
6. International Bridge & Construction Marianas, Inc. (IBCM)	04/04/2022 SMS-2022-025	Transfer of Interest (Pali'e Rota Quarry)	Sinapalo, Rota	Major Siting	Under Review*
7. Department of Public Works (DPW)	04/04/2022 SPIm-2022-026	Industrial Drive (Route 323) Road Improvement	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*
8. Pacific Subsea Saipan, Inc.	04/06/2022 SPIm-2022-027	Dry Dock - Yuri II	Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Business

US experts wrestle with how to update COVID-19 vaccines

WASHINGTON (AP)—More than two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, U.S. health officials are beginning to grapple with how to keep the vaccines updated to best protect Americans from the ever-changing coronavirus.

On Wednesday, a panel of vaccine advisers to the Food and Drug Administration spent hours debating key questions for revamping the shots and conducting future booster campaigns. They didn't reach any firm conclusions.

The questions facing the experts included: How often to update the vaccines against new strains, how effective they should be to warrant approval and whether updates should be coordinated with global health authorities.

Last week, the FDA authorized a fourth dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines for anyone 50 or older and



Medical personnel place pre-loaded syringes as they vaccinate students at KIPP Believe Charter School in New Orleans, Jan. 25, 2022. AP

for some younger people with severely weakened immune systems. It's an effort to get ahead of another possible surge.

But the FDA's vaccine chief Dr. Peter Marks acknowledged at the meeting "we simply can't be boosting people as frequently as we are." He called the latest booster update a "stopgap" measure to protect vulnerable Americans while regulators decide whether and how to tweak the current vaccines.

Marks cautioned that waning vaccine protection, new variants and colder weather in the fall could raise the risk of more surges.

"Our goal here is to stay ahead of future variants and outbreaks and ensure we do our best to reduce the toll of disease and death due to COVID-19," said Marks, adding that he expects more meetings of the vaccine panel in coming months.

Senate to vote on revoking Russia's trade status, oil ban

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate will take up legislation Thursday to end normal trade relations with Russia and to ban the importation of its oil, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer announced Wednesday.

Both bills have been bogged down in the Senate, frustrating lawmakers who want to ratchet up the U.S. response as the Ukraine war enters a gruesome new phase.

"It's a big, big deal that

we are finally getting them done," Schumer said. "Now, I wish this could have happened sooner, but after weeks of talks with the other side, it's important that we have found a path forward."

It's been three weeks since the House passed the trade suspension measure that paves the way for President Joe Biden to enact higher tariffs on certain Russian imports. At the time, the legislation was billed as sending a

message to Russian President Vladimir Putin and his allies about the economic isolation Russia will face for invading Ukraine.

The House vote in mid-March came one day after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told Congress in a virtual speech that "new packages of sanctions are needed constantly every week until the Russian military machine stops."

"They cannot just go kill a

bunch of people, destroy cities, kill women and children, and then go back and have business as usual," Ukrainian-born U.S. Rep. Victoria Spartz, a Republican from Indiana, said as the trade bill was debated in the House.

Reports of civilians being tortured and killed in Ukraine, with streets on the outskirts of Kyiv being strewn with corpses, had some lawmakers this week questioning why the Senate had not yet taken

action on the bill.

"What I'm telling the senators is that all this foot-dragging in the face of the atrocities that everybody saw this weekend is just really beyond imagination," said Sen. Ron Wyden, the Democratic chairman of the Senate Finance Committee.

House lawmakers concurred. "It sends a message of weakness," said Rep. Michael McCaul, R-Texas, on the Senate's inaction. "It seemed like a pretty bipartisan, easy thing to do, just like

not importing Russia energy, so it's disappointing."

There is overwhelming support for suspending preferential trade treatment for Russia. But Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., has objected to speedy consideration of the bill over concerns that its language on who can be sanctioned for human rights abuses is too broad, leaving it ripe for abuse. He blocked a request for a voice vote on the bill, which requires consent from all 100 senators. Schumer opted to let senators work it out rather than chew up floor time to overcome the filibuster.

Puerto Rico plunged into darkness after power station fire

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—A major power outage hit Puerto Rico late Wednesday, plunging hundreds of thousands of customers into darkness after a fire erupted at one of the largest power plants in the U.S. territory.

The outage was one of the biggest in recent months for the island's crumbling electrical grid, which has seen its periodic blackouts grow worse the last few years. The outage elicited a collective groan across the island of 3.2 million people, with many who de-

pend on insulin or respiratory therapies once again worried about how long it would last.

"Apagón!" wrote many frustrated customers across social media, using the Spanish word for outage.

Luma, a private company that took over transmission and distribution of Puerto Rico's Electric Power Authority last year, called it an island-wide power outage. However, the state power company's website said nearly 350,000 clients out of nearly 1.5 million were without lights.

Gov. Pedro Pierluisi said priority would be given to hospitals and other institutions as he tweeted: "I urge everyone to remain calm."

Puerto Rico's health secretary said generators at all hospitals and health centers were functioning and had enough fuel, adding that coronavirus vaccines remained properly stored at the correct temperature.

Transportation officials said crews evacuated passengers from the island's rapid transit system and took them to

their destinations via buses. Meanwhile, long lines formed at some gas stations as those with generators sought to refill them.

Education officials said they would soon announce whether classes at public schools would be cancelled Thursday, frustrating many parents who worried they might not find out if their cellphones died and they were unable to charge them.

Luma said in a statement that power might not be restored until Thursday, "given the size and scope" of the outage.

Six-days-a-week mail delivery saved

WASHINGTON (AP)—A sweeping overhaul of the U.S. Postal Service meant to shore up the popular but beleaguered agency's financial future and cement six-days-a-week mail delivery was signed into law Wednesday by President Joe Biden.

The legislation cleared Congress last month after fully a dozen years of discussion that took on a new sense of urgency amid widespread complaints about mail service delays. Officials had repeatedly warned that without congressional action, the Postal Service would run out of cash by 2024.

"The Postal Service is central to our economy and essential to rural America," Biden said. He added that mailmen and women deliver 4 million prescriptions per day, along with letters, consumer goods and even live

animals, "often to parts of the country that private carriers can't or won't or aren't required to reach."

The final legislation achieved rare, bipartisan support by scrapping some of the more controversial proposals and settling on core ways to save the service. Delivering the mail is among the most popular things the government does, with 91% of Americans having a favorable opinion of the Postal Service, according to a Pew Research Center poll released in 2020.

The bill signing came the same day the Postal Service announced it plans to raise rates effective July 10. Under the proposal submitted to the Postal Regulatory Commission, the cost of a first-class Forever stamp would increase by 2 cents to 60 cents.

Democrats accuse oil companies of 'rip off' on gas prices

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Democrats on Wednesday accused oil companies of "ripping off the American people" and putting profits before production as Americans suffer from ever-increasing gasoline prices during the war in Ukraine.

"At a time of record profits, Big Oil is refusing to in-

crease production to provide the American people some much needed relief at the gas pump," said Rep. Frank Pallone, D-N.J., chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Oil executives, testifying before Congress for the second time in six months, responded that oil is a global

market and that oil companies don't dictate prices.

"We do not control the market price of crude oil or natural gas, nor of refined products like gasoline and diesel fuel, and we have no tolerance for price gouging," said Chevron CEO Michael Wirth.

Facing sharp questions from Democrats, Wirth,

ExxonMobil CEO Darren Woods and other executives said their companies have no plans to halt payments of dividends to stockholders or to restrict stock buybacks that have enriched shareholders and company executives. The six companies at the hearing recorded \$77 billion in profits last year, they testified.

Nation

Police: Sacramento shooting was gunfight among gang rivals

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—The mass killing that left six people dead and 12 wounded outside bars just blocks from California's Capitol last weekend was a gunfight involving at least five shooters

from rival gangs, Sacramento police said Wednesday.

Police said they identified at least five gunmen but there may have been more. Only two suspects—both brothers wounded by gunfire—have

been arrested in connection with the shooting and, so far, only face firearms charges.

"We're still working through ... who the actual shooters are in the case," Sgt. Zach Eaton said.

Until Wednesday's announcement, police had been silent on what led to the shooting that erupted early Sunday as bars were letting out. Rapid-fire bursts of over 100 gunshots echoed through the streets as terrified patrons ran for their lives and others were hit by bullets.

Police said at least two gangs were involved. They declined to provide more details or name the gangs involved or the affiliation of any suspects.

Experts said that if gangs were to blame, it would mark an unusually bloody feud.

In 20 years of researching gangs in Los Angeles, Alex Alonso said he can't remember a gang-related shooting with such a high body count.

"It's extremely rare that a gang shooting happened as the way this one is being charac-

terized," Alonso said. "It's extremely rare to have that happen in a public place with so many victims."

Gregory Chris Brown, a criminal justice professor at California State University, Fullerton, said gangs often target rivals in drive-by shootings with fewer victims, though innocent bystanders are sometimes also struck.

The location of the Sacramento shooting—in a bustling area of watering holes near the entertainment district—was incidental to whatever fueled the fight.

"If rival gang members see each other it doesn't matter if they're in the Capitol of the United States of America," Brown said. "If you see a rival gang member and you're going to attack them, it doesn't matter where they are."

The large number of casual-

ties was the result of high-capacity weapons in a crowded area, he said.

Berry Accius, founder of Voice of the Youth who leads gun intervention and prevention programs and offered his services to counsel families who lost loved ones in the shooting, criticized police for characterizing the crime as gang-related, which he said will lead some to "think Black people."

He said people will see the photos of the Black women and men who were shot, assume they were in a gang and wonder why gang members are downtown.

"That's the narrative we don't need at this particular time," Accius said. "This idea that we're going to put blame to one demographic of folks and blame them for the violence that ensued."

ACROSS THE NATION

Missing Indiana couple found after man dies in Nevada desert

RENO, Nev. (AP)—A single, desperate cry for help went through to family members too late to save a woman's husband after the Indiana couple had been lost in Nevada's high-desert wilderness for more than a week. "37.757753, -117.809568. Help." It was a delayed text with GPS coordinates from Beverly Barker, 69, who survived the ordeal and was reported in good shape at a Reno hospital Wednesday, the day after rescuers found her and the body of her husband, Ronnie, 72. Their nephew, Travis Peters, said in a Wednesday Facebook post that he can only assume that as his aunt was being airlifted to the hospital—or perhaps her belongings were being brought down the mountain—her phone came into cell range and the message was sent late Tuesday. "Now we know it arrived too late," wrote Peters, who has been highly critical of law enforcement for what he says was too little too late in terms of a search for the Barkers.

Texas takes new border action; ex-Trump officials want more

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Texas Gov. Greg Abbott on Wednesday delivered new orders along the U.S.-Mexico border and promised more to come as former Trump administration officials press him to declare an "invasion" and give state troopers and National Guard members authority to turn back migrants. The two-term Republican governor did not say whether he supports such a concept, which constitutional scholars say is legally dubious, nearly unprecedented and would almost certainly face swift court challenges. But for now, Abbott said state troopers would begin stopping and inspecting commercial vehicles that come across the border, which he acknowledged would "dramatically slow" vehicle traffic near U.S. ports of entry. He also said bus charters to Washington, D.C., would be offered to migrants who volunteer for them, in a dig at President Joe Biden and Congress,

who Abbott has criticized for not doing enough.

Residents clear storm debris as more severe weather looms

PEMBROKE, Ga. (AP)—After violent storms blamed for killing at least three people, Southerners cleared fallen trees from roadways Wednesday and began cleaning up debris from homes and buildings smashed by suspected tornadoes as forecasters warned more violent weather was likely on the way. In southeast Georgia, residents

of Bryan County had barely begun recovery efforts after a likely tornado touched down Tuesday evening, killing one woman and injuring several other people, when local officials urged them to halt work by mid-afternoon Wednesday and take shelter for the night. The National Weather Service said another round of tornadoes was possible Wednesday, with heightened risk across a three-state area that included the cities of Atlanta; Birmingham, Alabama; and Knoxville, Tennessee.





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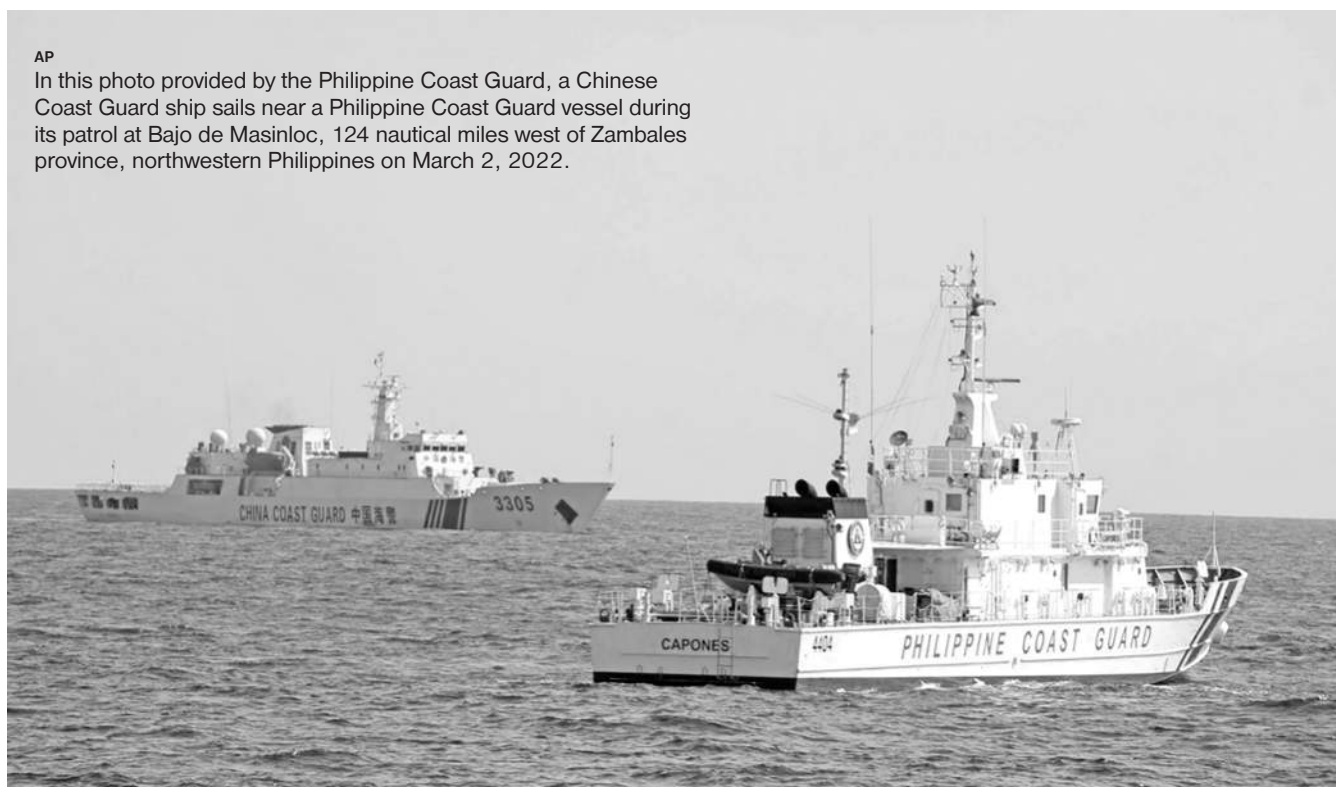
Asia

China ship shadows research vessel, Filipino scientists wary

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Chinese coast guard ship last month maneuvered for days near a research vessel deployed by Philippine and Taiwanese scientists to undertake a crucial survey of undersea fault lines west of the northern Philippines, sparking concerns among the scientists on board, officials said Thursday.

The scientists on the R/V Legend, including five Filipinos, proceeded with their research despite the presence of the Chinese coast guard ship in the vicinity of the waters straddling the undersea Manila Trench from March 25 to March 30 off the northwestern Philippine city of Vigan in Ilocos Sur province. The Chinese coast guard's proximity sparked concerns because the research vessel was towing a survey cable in the sea, a Filipino scientist told The Associated Press.

The ongoing offshore survey—a joint project of the National Institute of Geological Sciences at the University of the Philippines and the Na-



AP
In this photo provided by the Philippine Coast Guard, a Chinese Coast Guard ship sails near a Philippine Coast Guard vessel during its patrol at Bajo de Masinloc, 124 nautical miles west of Zambales province, northwestern Philippines on March 2, 2022.

tional Central University in Taiwan—aims to help map offshore faults and other geologic features that could set off future earthquakes, tsunamis and other potentially cata-

strophic hazards in the region. The monthlong research is partly funded by the Philippine Department of Science and Technology and will end on April 13.

The Chinese coast guard ship maneuvered about 2 to 3 nautical miles (3 to 5 kilometers) from the R/V Legend for several days, according to Carla Dimalanta of the Na-

tional Institute of Geological Sciences.

"Its proximity to the research vessel was cause for concern especially when the research vessel was towing a streamer cable for the scientific measurements that were

being done," Dimalanta told The AP in an emailed reply to questions about the incident.

She did not say if the Chinese coast guard ship warned the research vessel that it had illegally entered Chinese territorial waters and should immediately move away, a warning China's coast guard has often issued by radio to foreign ships and vessels cruising near its outposts in the South China Sea, which Beijing claims virtually in its entirety.

China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei have been locked in an increasingly tense territorial standoff in the busy waterway for decades.

The Manila Trench, which runs off the western coast of the main northern Philippine island of Luzon in the fringes of the South China Sea has long been an area of concern because of the potential disaster it could unleash if a major earthquake and tsunami were generated in the busy waterway that borders several countries, including China, Taiwan and the Philippines.

Staunch crackdown supporter to run for HK's top job

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong's No. 2 official, a staunch supporter of a Beijing-backed crackdown on pro-democracy activists, tendered his resignation on Wednesday to pave the way for his run in the city's upcoming leadership race.

John Lee, who is the city's chief secretary for administration, submitted his resignation to Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam, according to a government statement.

"If my resignation is approved by the Central People's Government, I shall plan to stand for the upcoming chief executive election," said Lee

at a news conference. "Having been in the government for over 40 years, to serve the people of Hong Kong is a glory."

He said he would elaborate on his "next move" if the Chinese government approves his resignation.

Lee, who is seen as Beijing's favored candidate for the chief executive position, is a staunch advocate of the city's national security law, which has been used since 2020 to target pro-democracy activists, supporters and media, diminishing freedoms

promised to Hong Kong at Britain's handover to China in 1997.

His potential leadership of Hong Kong could signal a further tightening of Beijing's grip on the semi-autonomous Chinese city.

Lam said Monday she would not seek a second term, following a rocky five years punctuated by the COVID-19 pandemic, a crackdown on political freedoms and Beijing's growing influence over the territory.

Local media, including the leading South China Morning

Post newspaper, reported that Lee will be the sole candidate to be endorsed by the Chinese government.

Other candidates tipped by local media as likely contenders include the city's finance minister, Paul Chan, although he has yet to express an intention to run.

Beijing's likely endorsement of Lee's candidacy signals that China is looking for loyalty and an emphasis on national security for Hong Kong, according to Ivan Choy, a senior lecturer at the Chinese University of Hong Kong's Department of Government and Public Administration.

Sri Lanka president won't resign despite growing protests

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka's president will not step down and instead will face the country's political and economic crisis, a key government minister said Wednesday despite continuing large protests that are demanding his resignation.

Sri Lanka has endured months of shortages of fuel and other essentials, and the protests over the economic troubles have spread nationwide and expanded to criticism of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his politically powerful family.

Rajapaksa has resisted the calls for him to resign even after members of his own coalition made them this week, with governing party lawmak-



AP
Sri Lanka's former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, center, leaves with his younger brother, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, right, after being sworn in as the prime minister at Kelaniya Royal Buddhist temple in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Aug. 9, 2020.

ers saying an interim government should replace him and failing to do so would make them responsible for violence. Rajapaksa "will not resign.

We will face this. We have the strength to face this. We are not afraid," Minister of Highways Johnston Fernando told Parliament on Wednesday.

Hours earlier, Rajapaksa revoked the state of emergency that he had declared last week after crowds of protesters demonstrated near his home in the capital, Colombo. The widely criticized emergency declaration gave him sweeping authority to act to protect public security, including suspending any laws, authorizing detentions and seizing property.

TV and social media images from Monday showed protesters storming into the offices and houses of governing party lawmakers and vandalizing some premises. Lawmakers urged the Parliament speaker to ensure their safety, and Fernando said they were prepared.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Malaysia searches for 3 Europeans lost on dive; 1 rescued

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysian authorities have rescued a Norwegian woman and were searching on Thursday for two teenagers and a fourth European who disappeared while diving off a southern island. Kristine Grodem, a 35-year-old registered diving instructor, was safe, according to Johor state maritime authorities. The missing divers are Alexia Alexandra Molina, 18, of France; Adrian Peter Chesters, 46, of Britain; and his Dutch son, Nathen Renze Chesters, 14. They were diving together Wednesday afternoon in water about 15 meters (49 feet) deep at an island 9 nautical miles (16.5 kilometers) off the coastal town of Mersing in southern Johor state. Grodem was found safe by a tugboat before being rescued by a maritime aircraft about 22 nautical miles away, Johor maritime officials said. The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency said the search began immediately Wednesday afternoon before being halted for the night due to poor visibility. The search resumed early Thursday.

6 accused of seditious acts at Hong Kong court hearings

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong's national security police used a colonial-era sedition law to arrest six people on suspicion of causing a nuisance at court hearings in December and January. The suspects were arrested Wednesday on suspicion of committing an "act or acts with seditious intent," an offense under the Crimes Ordinance. The acts "severely affected jurisdictional dignity and court operations," a government statement said. Police were not more specific about the alleged actions of the suspects — four men and two women between 32 and 67 years old. They also did not name the suspects, following customary practice. Local media reported one of those arrested was Tang Kin-wah, the former vice-chairman of the pro-democracy Confederation of Trade Unions, which disbanded in October following concerns over political risks. The colonial-era law had been dormant before being revived recently to arrest and prosecute a string of pro-democracy supporters and activists. A radio DJ and outspoken pro-democracy activist in March became the first person in the city convicted of sedition since the 1997 handover.

World

Mariupol's dead put at 5,000 as Ukraine braces in the east



AP
Cemetery workers load the corpses of civilians killed in Bucha into a truck, to be transported to the morgue, on the outskirts of Kyiv, Ukraine, Wednesday, April 6, 2022.

ANDRIIVKA, Ukraine (AP)—The mayor of the besieged port city of Mariupol put the number of civilians killed there at more than 5,000 Wednesday, as Ukraine collected evidence of Russian atrocities on the ruined outskirts of Kyiv and braced for what could become a climactic battle for control of the country's industrial east.

Ukrainian authorities continued gathering up the dead in shattered towns outside the

capital amid telltale signs Moscow's troops killed civilians indiscriminately before retreating over the past several days.

In other developments, the U.S. and its Western allies moved to impose new sanctions against the Kremlin over what they branded war crimes.

And Russia completed the pullout of all of its estimated 24,000 or more troops from the Kyiv and Chernihiv areas in the north, sending them into Belarus or Russia to resupply and

reorganize, probably to return to the fight in the east, a U.S. defense official speaking on condition of anonymity said.

In his nightly address, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned that the Russian military continues to build up its forces in preparation for the new offensive in the east, where the Kremlin has said its goal is to "liberate" the Donbas, Ukraine's mostly Russian-speaking industrial heartland. He said Ukraine, too, was pre-

paring for battle.

"We will fight and we will not retreat," he said. "We will seek all possible options to defend ourselves until Russia begins to seriously seek peace. This is our land. This is our future. And we won't give them up."

Ukrainian authorities urged people living in the Donbas to evacuate now, ahead of an impending Russian offensive, while there is still time.

"Later, people will come under fire," Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said, "and

we won't be able to do anything to help them."

A Western official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence estimates, said it will take Russia's battle-damaged forces as much as a month to regroup for a major push on eastern Ukraine.

Mariupol Mayor Vadym Boichenko said that of the more than 5,000 civilians killed during weeks of Russian bombardment and street fighting, 210 were children. He said Russian forces bombed hospitals, including one where 50

people burned to death.

Boichenko said more than 90% of the city's infrastructure has been destroyed. The attacks on the strategic southern city on the Sea of Azov have cut off food, water, fuel and medicine and pulverized homes and businesses.

British defense officials said 160,000 people remained trapped in the city, which had a prewar population of 430,000. A humanitarian relief convoy accompanied by the Red Cross has been trying for days without success to get into the city.

Ukraine appeals to NATO for weapons

BRUSSELS (AP)—Ukraine on Thursday appealed to NATO for more weapons in its fight against Russia to help prevent further atrocities like those reported in the city of Bucha, and urged Germany to slash red tape so that more supplies can get in.

NATO, as an organization, refuses to send troops to Ukraine or police any no-fly zone to prevent Russia from completely overwhelming its neighbor. But individual member countries are supplying anti-aircraft and anti-tank weapons, as well as equipment and medical supplies.

For Ukraine, this is simply not enough.

"My agenda is very simple. It only has three items on it. It's weapons, weapons, and weapons," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro

Kuleba told reporters in Brussels, as NATO foreign ministers gathered to discuss ways to shore up support for Kyiv.

"We know how to fight. We know how to win. But without sustainable and sufficient supplies requested by Ukraine, these wins will be accompanied by enormous sacrifices," Kuleba said. "The more weapons we get and the sooner they arrive in Ukraine, the more human lives will be saved."

Germany was widely criticized earlier this year for its refusal to provide only non-lethal supplies, as Ukrainian cities buckled under Russia's air and ground offensive. But once President Vladimir Putin ordered Russian troops to invade, Berlin changed tack, sending arms and ramping up

defense spending.

But Kuleba said that Germany can do more, and go faster. "While Berlin has time, Kyiv doesn't," he said.

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said that her country is "looking closely with our partners at how we can support Ukraine in the future more intensively, and more coordinated because they have a right of self defense and we will support this."

Some of the countries sending weapons are making a distinction about what kind of support they can provide. Ukraine, they argue, should only receive arms that can be used for defensive purposes and not war planes or tanks that might allow the country to really fight back, rather than hold out.

WHO: COVID cases and deaths continue to fall globally

GENEVA (AP)—The number of coronavirus cases reported globally has dropped for a second consecutive week and confirmed COVID-19 deaths also fell last week, according to a World Health Organization report issued Wednesday.

In its latest pandemic report, WHO said 9 million cases were reported, a 16% weekly decline, and more than 26,000 new deaths from COVID-19. The U.N. health agency said confirmed coronavirus infections were down in all regions of the world.

However, it warned that the reported numbers carry considerable uncertainty because many countries have stopped widespread testing for the coronavirus, meaning that many cases are likely going undetected.

WHO said it was also track-

ing an omicron variant that is a recombination of two versions: BA.1 and BA.2, which was first detected in Britain in January. WHO said early estimates suggest the recombined omicron could be about 10% more transmissible than previous mutations, but further evidence is needed.

The agency has continued to warn countries not to drop their COVID-19 protocols too quickly and predicted that future variants could spread easily if surveillance and testing systems are shelved.

Last week, the U.K. said COVID-19 had hit record levels across the country, with government statistics estimating that about 1 in 13 people were infected. Those figures came on the same day the British government abandoned its free testing program.

Meanwhile, Chinese authorities conducted more mass testing this week across Shanghai, which remains in lockdown following another jump in infections; the city has recorded more than 90,000 cases but no deaths during the pandemic.

Despite growing public frustration and concerns about economic effects, China says it is sticking to its hard-line "zero-tolerance" approach mandating lockdowns, mass testing and the compulsory isolation of all suspected cases and close contacts. Following a public uproar, Shanghai authorities said Wednesday they would allow at least some parents to stay with children infected with COVID-19, making an exception to a policy of isolating anyone who tests positive.

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Oldest U.S. active park ranger retires at 100

RICHMOND, Calif. (AP)—The nation's oldest active park ranger is hanging up her Smokey hat at the age of 100. Betty Reid Soskin retired Thursday after more than 15 years at the Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond, California, the National Park Service announced. Soskin "spent her last day providing an interpretive program to the public and visiting with co-workers," a Park Service statement said. She led tours at the park and museum honoring the women who worked in factories during wartime and shared her own experience as a Black woman during the conflict. She worked for the U.S. Air Force in 1942 but quit after learning that "she was employed only because her superiors believed she was white," according to a Park Service biography. "Being a primary source in the sharing of that history — my history — and giving shape to a new national park has been exciting and fulfilling," Soskin said in the Park Service statement. "It has proven to bring meaning to my final years."

UK Shark House owner dismayed at getting protected status

LONDON (AP)—The 25-foot tall (7.6 meter) sculpture of a shark crashing through the roof of Magnus Hanson-Heine's house in rural Oxford, England, is now a protected landmark—and he's not happy about it. Hanson-Heine loves the installation, erected by his father and a local sculptor in 1986 as an anti-war, anti-nuke protest that still remains relevant now as bombs fall on Ukraine and Russian President Vladimir Putin rattles his nuclear weapons. But he says the Oxford City Council ignored his father's other message this week when it designated the structure a heritage site that makes a "special contribution" to the community. Bill Heine installed the shark without the approval of local officials because he didn't think they should have the right to decide what art people see, and the council spent years trying to remove the sculpture.

10-inch knife found in baby car seat at Boston airport

BOSTON (AP)—Transportation Security Administration officers found a 10-inch (25-centimeter) long butcher knife wedged into the side of a baby's car seat at a security checkpoint at Boston's Logan International Airport, officials

said. "We love babies ... but not butcher knives!" TSA New England said in a post on its official Twitter account Tuesday. State police were informed after the knife was found on Monday and it was confiscated. "Pack your knives properly in your checked bag and you're good to go," the TSA tweeted. No one was arrested, a TSA New England spokesperson said. After the knife was confiscated, the car seat was rescanned and the woman and her baby were allowed to continue on their flight to Atlanta, he said. It's not clear why the passenger needed a knife, he said.

Michigan police investigate theft of sasquatch lawn ornament

PARK TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—Police are investigating the theft of a 7-foot-tall (2.13 meter-tall) metal sasquatch lawn ornament from a home in southern Michigan. The item crafted from sheet metal was stolen from a home in St. Joseph County's Park Township on or after March 22, Michigan State Police said. It has a rusty brown color with various sharp edges to resemble the fur of the mythical, ape-like bigfoot. It appeared the sasquatch was cut away from a steel post with a pair of bolt cutters or a similar instrument, police said. A white panel van with dark driver- and passenger-side windows was observed parked in the area on March 22, police said.

Darwin notebooks missing for 20 years returned to Cambridge

LONDON (AP)—Two of naturalist Charles Darwin's notebooks that were reported stolen from Cambridge University's library have been returned, two decades after they disappeared. The university said Tuesday that the manuscripts were left in the library inside a pink gift bag, along with a note wishing the librarian a Happy Easter. The notebooks, which include the 19th-century scientist's famous 1837 "Tree of Life" sketch, went missing in 2001 after being removed for photographing, though at the time staff believed they might have been misplaced. After searches of the library's collection of 10 million books, maps and manuscripts failed to find them, they were reported stolen to police in October 2020. Local detectives notified the global police organization Interpol and launched an international hunt for the notebooks, valued at millions of pounds (dollars). On March 9 the books reappeared, left in a public area of the building, outside the librar-

ian's office, which is not covered by security cameras. The two notebooks were wrapped in clingfilm inside their archive box, and appeared undamaged. The accompanying note said: "Librarian Happy Easter X."

US agency acknowledges damage to dinosaur tracks in Utah

MOAB, Utah (AP)—Dinosaur tracks from 112 million years ago have been damaged in southeastern Utah by heavy machinery used to rebuild a boardwalk at the popular tourist area, U.S. officials say. The damage at the Mill Canyon Dinosaur Tracksite is minor but some footprints had fractures around the rims, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management recently said in a report. The agency also said an area where a prehistoric crocodile crossed a mud flat appeared to have been driven over multiple times by a backhoe, causing fracturing, the Salt Lake Tribune reported. The site is considered among the most important dinosaur track areas in the nation, containing tracks from at least 10 different species. The agency in the report said the project should be reevaluated, the area clearly marked and work crews briefed on where they can and can't go. The report also noted that the agency should fill a vacancy for a regional paleontologist that has been vacant since 2018.

Kansas woman wins traditional pancake race against England

LIBERAL, Kan. (AP)—A woman from Liberal, Kansas, is this year's champion of the traditional Pancake Day Race against women in Olney, England. Whitney Hay won the U.S. leg of the race in Liberal on Tuesday with a time of 1:07, KSNW-TV reported. That beat Katie Godof of Olney, England, who ran her race in 1:10. The race returned after a hiatus in 2021 because of the coronavirus pandemic. Hay, a 21-year-old college student, also won the Liberal race in 2020 but lost to Olney that year. Contestants must carry a pancake in a frying pan and flip it at the beginning and end of the 415-yard (380 meter) race. The event began in Olney in the 15th century. In 1950, Liberal challenged Olney to an international competition. The crepe-like pancakes are traditionally eaten in the United Kingdom on Shrove Tuesday, the start of Lent. Olney in Buckinghamshire, is about 60 miles (100 kilometers) northwest of London. Liberal is in southwest Kansas, just north of the Oklahoma state line and about 200 miles (320 kilometers) west of Wichita.

Science & Techonology

UN warns Earth is on track toward an 'unlivable world'



Smoke and steam rise from a coal processing plant in Hejin in central China's Shanxi Province Nov. 28, 2019.

By **FRANK JORDANS** and
SETH BORENSTEIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERLIN (AP)—Temperatures on Earth will shoot past a key danger point unless greenhouse gas emissions fall faster than countries have committed, the world's top body of climate scientists said Monday, warning of the consequences of inaction but also noting hopeful signs of progress.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change revealed "a litany of broken climate promises" by governments and corporations, accusing them of stoking global warming by clinging to harmful fossil fuels.

"It is a file of shame, cataloguing the empty pledges that put us firmly on track toward an unlivable world," he said.

Governments agreed in

the 2015 Paris accord to keep global warming well below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) this century, ideally no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit). Yet temperatures have already increased by over 1.1C (2F) since pre-industrial times, resulting in measurable increases in disasters such as flash floods, extreme heat, more intense hurricanes and longer-burning wildfires, putting human lives in danger and costing governments hundreds of billions of dollars to confront.

"Projected global emissions from (national pledges) place limiting global warming to 1.5C beyond reach and make it harder after 2030 to limit warming to 2C," the panel said.

In other words, the report's co-chair, James Skea of Imperial College London, told The Associated Press: "If we continue acting as

we are now, we're not even going to limit warming to 2 degrees, never mind 1.5 degrees."

Ongoing investments in fossil fuel infrastructure and clearing large swaths of forest for agriculture undermine the massive curbs in emissions needed to meet the Paris goal, the report found.

Emissions in 2019 were about 12% higher than they were in 2010 and 54% higher than in 1990, said Skea.

The rate of growth has slowed from 2.1% per year in the early part of this century to 1.3% per year between 2010 and 2019, the report's authors said. But they voiced "high confidence" that unless countries step up their efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions, the planet will on average be 2.4C to 3.5C (4.3 to 6.3F) warmer by the end of the century—a level experts say is sure to cause severe impacts for much of the world's population.

'Sanctions could imperil space station'

MOSCOW (AP)—The head of Russia's space program said Saturday that the future of the International Space Station hangs in the balance after the United States, the European Union, and Canadian space agencies missed a deadline to meet Russian demands for lifting sanctions on Russian enterprises and hardware.

Dmitry Rogozin, the head of Roscosmos, told reporters that the state agency is preparing a report on the prospects of international cooperation at the station, to be presented to federal au-

thorities "after Roscosmos has completed its analysis."

Rogozin implied on Russian state TV that the Western sanctions, some of which predate Russia's current military operations in Ukraine, could disrupt the operation of Russian spacecraft servicing the ISS with cargo flights. Russia also sends manned missions to the space station.

He stressed that the Western partners need the space station and "cannot manage without Russia, because no one but us can deliver fuel to the station."

Rogozin added that "only

the engines of our cargo craft are able to correct the ISS's orbit, keeping it safe from space debris."

Rogozin later Saturday wrote on his Telegram channel that he received responses from his Western counterparts vowing to promote "further cooperation on the ISS and its operations."

He reiterated his view that "the restoration of normal relations between partners in the ISS and other joint (space) projects is possible only with the complete and unconditional lifting" of sanctions, which he referred to as illegal.

Life & Style

Ed Sheeran wins copyright case over 2017 hit ‘Shape of You’

LONDON (AP)—Grammy Award-winning songwriter Ed Sheeran won a U.K. copyright battle over his 2017 hit “Shape of You” on Wednesday, then slammed what he described as a “culture” of baseless lawsuits intended to squeeze money out of artists eager to avoid the expense of a trial.

The British pop star and his co-writers, Snow Patrol’s John McDaid and producer Steven McCutcheon, had denied allegations that the song copied part of 2015’s “Oh Why” by Sami Chokri, who performs under the name Sami Switch.

“Whilst we’re obviously happy with the result, I feel like claims like this are way



AP
Musician Ed Sheeran arrives at the Rolls Building, High Court in central London, on March 15, 2022.

too common now and have become a culture where a claim is made with the idea that a settlement will be cheaper than taking it to court, even if there is no basis for the claim,” Sheeran said in a video posted on Twitter. “It’s really damaging to the songwriting industry.”

Andrew Sutcliffe, the lawyer for the co-writers of “Oh Why,” argued that there was an “indisputable similarity between the works.” He claimed that Sheeran had “Oh Why” in his head “consciously or unconsciously” when “Shape of You” was written in 2016.

The plaintiffs alleged that the refrain “Oh I, Oh I, Oh I” in the chorus of “Shape Of

You” was “strikingly similar” to the line “Oh why, Oh why, Oh why” in their track.

During the 11-day trial, Sheeran denied allegations that he “borrows” ideas from unknown songwriters without acknowledgement and said he has always been fair in crediting people who contribute to his albums.

In Wednesday’s ruling, High Court Judge Antony Zacaroli concluded that Sheeran “neither deliberately nor subconsciously” copied a phrase from “Oh Why” when writing his smash hit.

Sheeran, McDaid and Mac

said in a statement that the cost of the case was more than financial. The stress of going to trial also hurts creativity, means less time to make music and takes an emotional toll, they said.

“It is so painful to hear someone publicly and aggressively challenge your integrity,” the trio said. “It is so painful to have to defend yourself against accusations that you have done something that you haven’t done, and would never do.”

“Shape of You” was the biggest-selling song in the U.K. in 2017.

Emmy Awards air Sept. 12, nominees announced in July

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The 74th Emmy Awards will be held Sept. 12, airing live on NBC.

Nominations for the best in TV will be announced July 12, the television academy and network said Wednesday. The ceremony’s host, producers and other details will be announced later.

The Emmys will be held on a Monday, not the usual Sunday, because of “NBC Sunday Night Football.”

Kourtney Kardashian, Travis Barker not married

LAS VEGAS (AP)—After a day of did they or didn’t they speculation, Kourtney Kardashian confirmed Wednesday on Instagram that her Las Vegas wedding was just for fun and she’s not legally hitched to Travis Barker.

“Once upon a time in a land far, far away (Las Vegas) at 2am, after an epic night and a little tequila, a queen and her handsome king ventured out to the only open chapel with an Elvis and got married (with no li-

Last year’s ceremony, hosted by Cedric the Entertainer on CBS, had a limited in-person theater audience because of COVID-19 concerns. But it was closer to business as usual after 2020’s largely virtual event on ABC with host Jimmy Kimmel.

The Emmys rotate among the major broadcast networks, including Fox, although the awards themselves have increasingly gone to cable and, more recently, to streaming services as well.

They requested an Elvis impersonator and chapel owner Marty Frierson told The Associated Press that he drummed one up after somebody booked the gig and paid online. Frierson said he served as a “witness” when the small group rolled in after the Grammys on Sunday with security and a photographer of their own.

Chanel restricts sales to Russians abroad amid Ukraine war

PARIS (AP)—Luxury fashion brand Chanel says it has stopped selling its clothes, perfumes and other luxury goods to Russian customers abroad if they plan to take the products back home—a bold response to Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine that some say goes too far.

The move, which some Russians have decried, comes after the Parisian company shuttered its boutiques in Russia. Many companies across all industries have halted business in the country in response to the war.

This further step, Chanel said Wednesday, is simply a case of complying with trade

sanctions imposed on Russia by the European Union, Switzerland and others that prohibit transactions with designated individuals.

“The most recent EU and Swiss sanction laws include a prohibition on the ‘sale, supply, transfer or export, directly or indirectly, of luxury goods to any natural or legal person, entity or body in Russia or for use in Russia,’” Chanel said in a statement.

It concerns products valued at over 300 euros (\$328)—which is the majority of Chanel’s design output.

“We have rolled out a pro-

cess to ask clients for whom we do not know the main residency to confirm that the items they are purchasing will not be used in Russia,” Chanel said, without elaborating on what that process looks like.

It’s a difficult measure to enforce, yet some Russian social media influencers have already said they are being asked for identification and denied the ability to buy goods at Chanel boutiques from Paris to the United Arab Emirates.

Russian socialite Anna Klashnikova said last week that she had seen “Russophobia in action” after not being allowed

to purchase earrings and a Chanel bag in an outlet in Dubai.

Fashion insiders say the brand’s decision would not have been easy because they are set to take a financial hit.

“It’s bold for Chanel—this is almost unprecedented. The house is putting its principles above the buck,” said Long Nguyen, a prominent fashion critic.

“Russia is one of their biggest luxury markets, and Chanel is certain to suffer financially from this choice,” he said. “But it’s also political for the brand—as it wants to appeal to Gen Z clients who are largely opposed to the war.”

Swedish House Mafia, The Weeknd replace Ye at Coachella

INDIO, Calif. (AP)—Swedish House Mafia and The Weeknd are replacing rapper Ye in a headlining spot at Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival.

A new lineup was posted on Wednesday announcing the late change for the festival that

runs April 15-17 and April 22-24 in Indio, California.

A representative for Ye, who changed his name from Kanye West, did not immediately return a message from the AP seeking comment. A publicist for Goldenvoice, the company that runs Coachella, also did

not respond to a request for information.

Swedish House Mafia had already been listed as performers prior to the lineup change, but it wasn’t immediately clear when they were to perform. Now they are listed at the top of the Sunday nightly sched-

ule, along with The Weeknd. Other headliners include Billie Eilish and Harry Styles.

Ye, a top Grammy nominee, did not attend last weekend’s Grammy Awards, despite winning two awards, after his performance was pulled from the show.

Sparks still flying when couple reconnect

DEAR ABBY: I reconnected with an old flame, “Ollie,” eight years ago. We would see each other and catch up during a weekly event he hosted. We’re both married with kids. We kept it non-physical but connected emotionally. We chatted every day and confessed our attraction to each other while still not engaging in anything more than our weekly encounters among friends.

People often assumed we were husband and wife. At the time, I was going through a horrible period in my marriage. My husband, “Pete,” was emotionally abusive and one night even threatened to kill me. Pete and I went to couples counseling, and I went to counseling on my own.

During the first five years of reconnecting with Ollie, he was supportive, accepting and very kind. I fell in love with him, and he with me. We had one quick hug before I left for the holidays. When I returned, we had an intimate kiss. Then COVID hit. Obviously, there was no physical contact after that kiss, but we still talk nearly every day. We have seen each other at business functions among friends twice in three months.

Pete has actually changed and has apologized for how he treated me. We got along nicely during the quarantine. I am just no longer attracted to him. I no longer trust him. He knows nothing of my friendship with Ollie. I also don’t think Ollie will

ever give in to his feelings for me. What can I do?

CONFOUNDED IN IOWA

DEAR CONFOUNDED: Go back to your counselor. You have some heavy decisions to make about how you want to live the rest of your life. Remove Ollie from the equation and ask yourself if you really want to stay married to someone to whom you are no longer attracted and no longer completely trust.

Some people are so fearful of the prospect of being alone that they stay in empty or abusive relationships. Figure out whether you have the strength to go it alone, and you will have the answer to your question.

◆◆◆◆

DEAR ABBY: I live in an over-55 condominium community in Florida. Overall, it’s calm and quiet, which is why I moved here. My favorite pastime and form of exercise is to go to the pool. However, some neighbors think nothing of playing their music loudly in the pool area.

I would never subject anyone else to my taste in music in such a public arena, and I can’t understand why they think they have the right to inflict it on other people without asking. I have spoken to them politely and asked that they refrain, but they continue to do exactly as they want. Any suggestions?

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DESPERATELY SEEKING PEACE AND QUIET

DEAR DESPERATELY: Because you have spoken to the neighbors about this with no success, I will offer some suggestions. The first would be to bring this to the attention of the manager and the board of directors of your condominium association. Consideration for others should not need to be written into the bylaws, but the sad reality is that sometimes it does.

Another solution could be as simple as the music lovers wearing ear buds to enjoy their music without bothering others. However, if that doesn’t solve the problem, you may have to invest in noise-canceling headphones for yourself.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



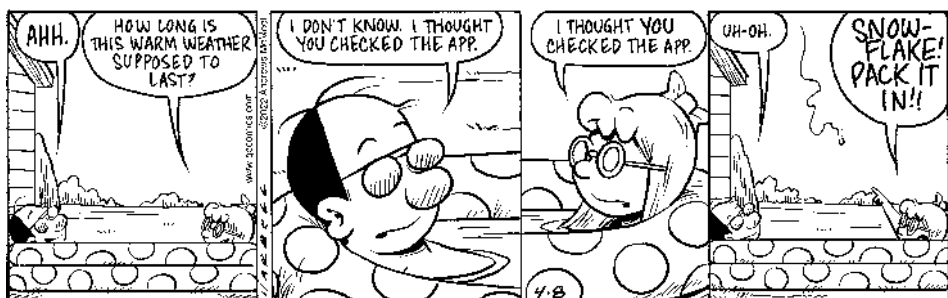
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



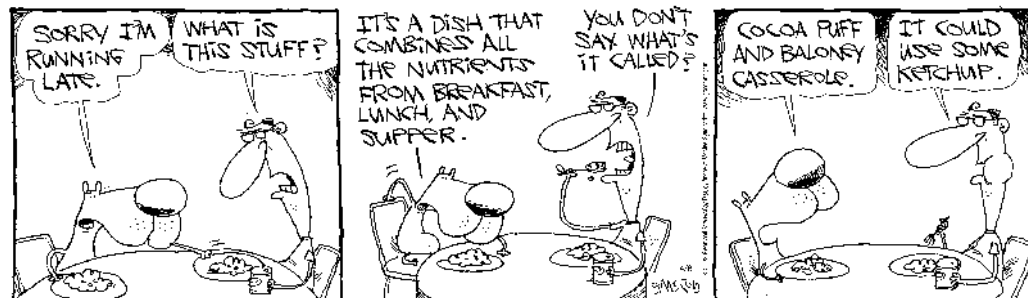
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

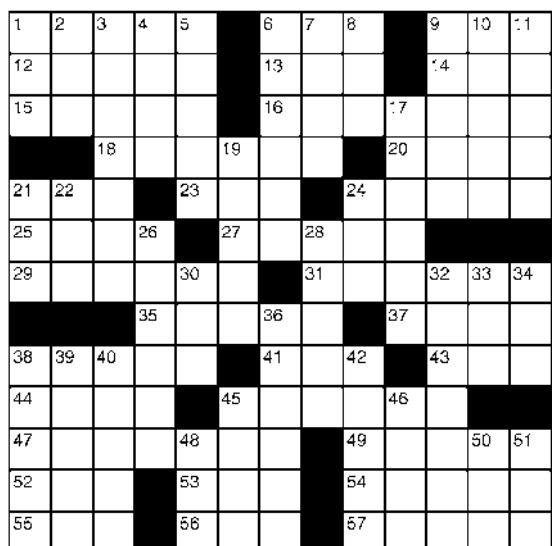
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Block the flow of
- 6 Pen pal?
- 9 Fuel stat
- 12 Florida city
- 13 College URL
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- 15 Patriot Allen
- 16 Neighbor of Kenya
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- 27 Chocolate source
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- 31 Greyhound alternative
- 35 Bottom
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- DOWN**
- 38 Wedding rings
- 41 Sauce source
- 43 Hiatus
- 44 Sharif of film
- 45 Cooking oil
- 47 Onion choice
- 49 1945 conference site
- 52 Chemical suffix
- 53 Catchall abbr.
- 54 Wicker-work willow
- 55 "Le Coq" —
- 56 Crosses (out)
- 57 Tint
- 1 Female rabbit
- 2 Performance
- 3 Gospel singer
- 4 — Bator
- 5 Hunger signals
- 6 Old Spanish coin
- 7 Nuptial vows
- 8 Wrigley product
- 9 Director Louis
- 10 Preceding
- 11 Seizes
- 17 Monastery heads
- 19 Spiked
- 21 "GMA" network
- 22 "East of Eden" brother
- 24 Rotating part
- 26 Arctic plain
- 28 Leslie of "Gigi"
- 30 German article
- 32 King's finery
- 33 Docs' org.
- 34 Half a ton
- 36 Author Susan
- 38 Antelope or goat
- 39 Acid type
- 40 Consumer advocate
- 42 Toys on strings
- 45 Refer to
- 46 Whip
- 48 Superman foe
- 50 Slugger Williams
- 51 Verb for you

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 4-8



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Taylor Kitsch, 41; Sung Kang, 50; Patricia Arquette, 54; Robin Wright, 56.

Happy Birthday: Visualize change before heading in a new direction. Have patience, and wait to see what others plan to do before you barrel ahead on your own. Keeping the peace, maintaining a standard of living will determine how the year unfolds. Recognize your finer qualities and hone your skills in preparation to help you reach your long-term goals. Your numbers are 7, 18, 25, 29, 34, 38, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Be brief but to the point. Give no one reason to doubt you or question what you plan to do next.

Work toward maintaining a stable environment using intelligence and well-thought-out plans that encourage better health and living conditions. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Touch base with someone making changes or doing something that interests you. Find out all you can, and consider how you can follow suit. Follow your heart when it comes to meaningful relationships. Share your intentions and feelings. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A responsible attitude will divert trouble. Getting involved with anyone who is unrealistic will be taxing. Refuse to let your emotions lead you down a rabbit hole. Don't believe everything you hear or follow someone for the wrong reason. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Primp and pamper. Ease stress, and focus on looking and feeling your best. Don't get into conversations with anyone looking for a fight.

Concentrate on personal change, growth and a healthy lifestyle. Make romance a priority. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Trust and believe in your skills, and move forward with promise, enthusiasm and positive results. Fine-tuning what you already have in place will be more effective than changing direction. Show loyalty where it belongs, and improve your relationships. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't turn down help or guidance from someone with more experience. Turn a partnership into an opportunity to encourage you to use your skills and knowledge uniquely. Something good will transpire if you make a romantic gesture. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Be careful how you handle situations at home and at work. Someone will take what you say or do the wrong way, leaving you in a vulnerable position. Concentrate more on self-improvement and less on trying to change someone. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Live and learn. Let experience be your guide to a better life and happy relationships. Share with like-minded people, and you'll come up with a plan that will benefit everyone. Don't make domestic changes without approval. Romance is favored. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Follow the money. Avoid joint ventures or shared expenses. Protect your health, wealth and meaningful relationships. Conversations can resolve issues, but there will be an emotional cost involved. Don't take a risk or act in

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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haste. Get your facts straight. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Keep your thoughts to yourself. Collect information, find out where they stand and look for alternative solutions within the guidelines of any rules you face. Doing what's right will ease stress. Don't let your emotions cost you. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Use your intelligence to counter any attempt someone makes to take advantage of you. Keep socialization and entertainment to a minimum. Something may tempt you, but the emotional and physical cost is risky. Focus on self-improvement and good health. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Stick close to home, and make changes that will lower your overhead and add to your comfort and convenience. Let go of things you no longer need. Donate to someone who can put what you have to good use. Romance is encouraged. *****

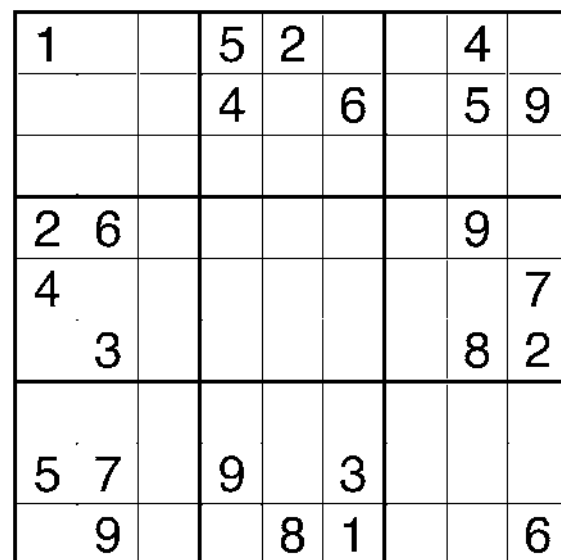
Birthday Baby: You are flirtatious, emotional and relentless. You are insightful and sympathetic.

☺ Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☹ You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼ Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼ Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼ Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



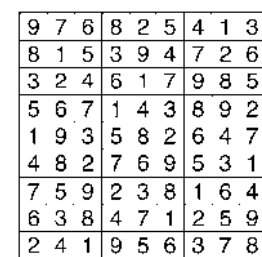
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

4/08

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

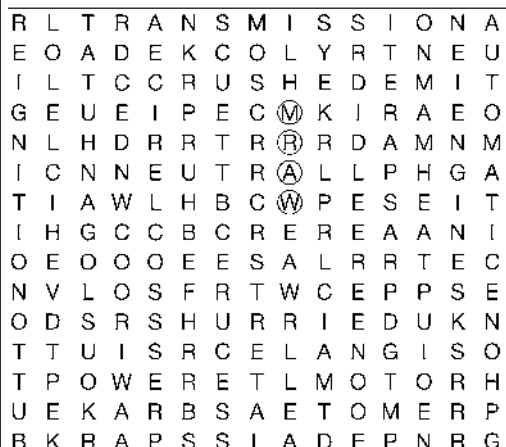
WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them. Circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

START THE CAR

Solution: 7 letters



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Automatic, Boost, Brake, Button, Carburetor, Checks, Clutch, Cold, Electrical, Engines, Entry, Fuel, Gear, Heat, Hurried, Idle, Ignition, Keys, Late, Locked, Motor, Neutral, Pedals, Phone, Power, Prepare, Press, Purse, Push, Remote, Rushed, Schedule, Secure, Signal, Slogan, Spare, Spark, Temperature, Time, Transmission, Vehicle, Wait, Warm, Winter

Yesterday's Answer: Workout

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6490.

Kevin Durant leads Nets in comeback win over Knicks



NEW YORK (AP)— Kevin Durant loves being part of New York's basketball rivalry, even finds it funny when he hears from the opposing fans.

He should enjoy it. When it comes to the Knicks, Durant always gets the last word.

Durant had 32 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds, leading the Brooklyn Nets back from 21 points down to a 110-98 victory Wednesday night that strengthened their chances of the best spot possible next week in the Eastern Conference play-in tournament.

Durant hasn't lost a game against the Knicks in nine years and the stakes are even bigger now since he and Kyrie Irving showed up in Brooklyn in 2019.

"We know how much Knicks fans don't like us, especially now this era of the Nets, with us not choosing the Knicks, me and Kyrie. So it definitely adds something to the rivalry," Durant said.

After watching the Nets come back from 28 down when he was hurt in their last visit to Madison Square Garden, Durant scored 23 points in the second half to fuel this comeback that pulled Brooklyn within a game of Cleveland for seventh place in the East.

The Nets host the Cavaliers on Friday night. If they win that and then beat Indiana on Sunday in their regular-season finale, they would finish seventh and need to win one game in two chances at home in the play-in to qualify for the postseason.

Irving added 24 points, eight rebounds and seven assists for the Nets, who swept the four-game season series and beat the Knicks for the seventh straight time, their longest winning streak in the local rivalry since taking a franchise-record 11 in a row from 1984-86.



Brooklyn Nets' Kevin Durant (7) passes the ball away from New York Knicks' RJ Barrett (9) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, April 6, 2022, in New York.

It appeared it would go the Knicks' way most of the night, and they were still ahead by 18 with under four minutes left in the third quarter. But Brooklyn cut it to 10 by the end of the period, then opened the fourth with a 15-2 spurt to storm into the lead.

With Durant and Irving both playing the entire second half on the second night of a back-to-back, Brooklyn outscored New York 60-31 after halftime.

"I just kept telling our guys that this is our game," Irving said.

The Knicks recovered to go back ahead by three, but Durant scored eight straight Brooklyn points, including the tiebreaking jumper that made it 98-96 with 4:15 to play. The Nets followed with 3-pointers by Irving, Seth Curry and Patty Mills to break it open.

"We've got to understand the intensity at that point of the game is different," Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau said.

Durant improved to 20-3

against the Knicks and has won 12 straight games against the Knicks that he played in, with the last loss in 2013 in Oklahoma City. He said he still gets asked by Knicks fans why he decided not to join them when he left Golden State.

"It's all fun at the end of the day, it's all funny, but people respect my decision," Durant said. "They respect my game, but I understand how big Knicks-Nets is in the city so I'm just trying to embrace it."

Curry and Mills each scored 15 points.

Alec Burks scored 24 points, and RJ Barrett had 23 for the Knicks, who were in control after a 19-0 spanning the first and second quarters.

The Knicks closed the first quarter with a 10-0 spurt to take a 29-25 lead. They ran off the first nine of the second period, making it 38-25 on Obi Toppin's basket just over two minutes in. New York got consecutive 3-pointers from Barrett and Evan Fournier made it

63-46 and the lead was still 17 at the break.

Burks opened the third quarter with a 3-pointer and Barrett knocked down a free throw to make it 71-50, but New York would get only 11 more points and shoot 5 for 20 in the quarter. Durant hit a pair of 3s in a 10-2 run to end the period that trimmed it to 82-72.

Celtics 117, Bulls 94

In Chicago, Jaylen Brown scored 25 points, Al Horford added 17 on 7-of-7 shooting and Boston routed Chicago for its 50th victory.

The Celtics have won three in a row and are 27-6 since Jan. 22. They can wrap up the second spot in the Eastern Conference playoffs Thursday night with a victory at Milwaukee.

Jayson Tatum scored 16 points for Boston. He was 5 of 18 from the field, making only one of eight from 3-point range.

DeMar DeRozan scored 16 points for Chicago. The Bulls have lost two straight.

They claimed a playoff berth Tuesday.

Mavericks 131, Pistons 113

In Detroit, Luka Doncic had 26 points, 14 assists and eight assists and Dallas beat Detroit to reach 50 victories for the first time in seven years.

The Mavericks are 20 games above .500 for the first time since 2011, when they won the NBA title.

Jalen Brunson added 24 points for Dallas. The Mavericks have won five of six.

Cade Cunningham had 25 points, nine assists and seven rebounds for Detroit.

Clippers 113, Suns 109

In Los Angeles, Norman Powell scored 24 points after being out two months, Paul George added 19 points in three quarters to go over 15,000 in his career and Los Angeles held off NBA-leading Phoenix.

With nothing at stake, Phoenix rested All-Star guards Devin Booker and Chris Paul

and fellow starters Deandre Ayton and Jae Crowder on the second night of a back-to-back. The Suns had already set a franchise record for wins in a season with 63 by eliminating the Lakers from playoff contention Tuesday.

The Clippers beat up the Suns for three quarters, leading by 39 points in the third. But Phoenix's reserves put together a 48-point fourth quarter and then ran out of time.

Ish Wainwright scored a career-high 20 points to lead Phoenix. Aaron Holiday added 16 points and Bismack Biyombo had 14 points and 12 rebounds.

Jazz 137, Thunder 101

In Salt Lake City, Bojan Bogdanovic scored 27 points, Rudy Gobert added 20 points and 10 rebounds and Utah beat Oklahoma City.

Jordan Clarkson had 18 points and a season-high 10 assists, and Hassan Whiteside added 15 points, 11 rebounds and five blocks to help the Jazz win their fifth straight home game.

Jaylen Hoard scored 23 points for Oklahoma City. Isaiah Roby and Jeremiah Robinson-Earl each added 18 points.

Hawks 118, Wizards 193

In Atlanta, Trae Young scored 16 of his 30 points in the third period to help Atlanta stretch its lead against Washington.

Kristaps Porzingis led Washington with 26 points and 18 rebounds.

The Hawks are ninth in the Eastern Conference, thanks to Brooklyn's tiebreaker edge for eighth, and bound for the play-in tournament with two games remaining in the regular season.

Danilo Gallinari had 26 points and 10 rebounds for Atlanta. Young added 11 assists.

Cavaliers, Bulls pushing for playoffs in East after droughts

By **NOAH TRISTER**

AP SPORTS WRITER

Not since 1998 have the Cleveland Cavaliers made the playoffs without LeBron James.

This season, they're at least assured of a spot in the play-in tournament after an impressive turnaround.

The 10 teams in the Eastern Conference that will advance beyond the 82-game regular season are already set. The only suspense left is determining seeding — and which teams will avoid the play-in and go straight to the playoffs. Chicago, Toronto and Cleveland, who finished 11th, 12th and 13th in the conference last season, are now battling it out to finish in the top six.

The Bulls (45-33) and Rap-

tors (45-33) are tied for fifth, just above the play-in cutoff. The Cavaliers (43-36) are in seventh.

Chicago hasn't made the playoffs since 2017. Cleveland hasn't made it since 2018 — before James left the team for a second time. Only Charlotte (2016) has a longer playoff drought in the East, and the Hornets made the play-in last season and have done so again this year.

The Cavaliers went 22-50 a season ago, but they'll finish 2021-22 with a winning record. Cleveland has the fifth-best defensive rating in the league this season after finishing 25th a year ago. It hasn't been a great stretch run for the Cavs, who have lost six of their last eight and appear headed to the play-

in round.

"My biggest concern is our habits, and if we're doing things correctly," coach J.B. Bickerstaff said after a recent win over the New York Knicks. "We do things correctly, we've got enough to win basketball games. So that's what we're focusing on is those habits and continuing to do the right things, and then you let the teams in front of you do what they need to do."

Cleveland still has Kevin Love, a veteran link to the Cavs' 2016 championship, but younger players like Jarrett Allen, Darius Garland, rookie Evan Mobley and Lauri Markkanen have really helped drive this improvement.

Markkanen went to Cleve-

land from Chicago in an off-season trade, but the Bulls have done fine without him, climbing the standings after they went 31-41 a season ago. Their big new addition, DeMar DeRozan, is averaging a career-high 28 points per game, helping change the Bulls' outlook considerably.

Chicago's defense has actually slipped since last season, but its offensive rating has improved from 21st in the league to 11th. DeRozan scored 50 points in an overtime win over the Los Angeles Clippers on Thursday night. DeRozan said a missed free throw late in the fourth quarter left him frustrated, but the Bulls took the game anyway.

"I think he gets really mad all the time, to be quite honest,"

coach Billy Donovan said. "I think he holds himself to such a high standard, and I think that's what makes him a great player."

Chicago's next two games are tough — against Milwaukee on Tuesday night and Boston on Wednesday night — but they're both at home. Then the Bulls host Charlotte before playing at Minnesota to end the regular season.

Toronto finishes with home games against Atlanta, Philadelphia and Houston, followed by a game in New York against the Knicks.

The Cavaliers need help from the out-of-town scoreboard to avoid the play-in, and although they have a very winnable game Tuesday night at Orlando. They then play at Brooklyn and at home against Milwaukee.

OTHER RACES

The top seed in the East is still up for grabs, with Miami (51-28) hoping to hold off Boston (49-30), Milwaukee (48-30) and Philadelphia (48-30). The Heat have home games against Charlotte and Atlanta before a trip to Orlando. Milwaukee hosts Boston on Thursday night, but it remains to be seen if either of those teams still has a chance at the No. 1 seed by then.

Of the top 10 spots in the East, the largest separation between any two of them is three games, so there's still a lot of uncertainty left, even if everyone but those 10 teams has been eliminated already. That's a lot different than the West, where Phoenix (62-16) has secured the top seed and Memphis (55-23) has locked up No. 2.

MP United teams on top of Youth Spring League



MICHAELA PANGANIBAN

An MP United Blue player kicks the ball during their boys U13 division game against Paire Football Club in the TakeCare NMIFA Youth Spring League 2022 last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MP United Blue and Pink are tied for the lead in the boys U13 division of the TakeCare NMIFA Youth Spring League 2022 following their contrasting wins last Saturday at the

NMI Soccer Training Center.

MP United Blue edged MPU Pink cruised to a 3-0 victory over Matansa. The two MPU squads now hold similar 3-0-1 win-draw-loss marks to share the top spot



in the team standings ahead of Paire (3-0-2), Matansa (2-1-1), Kanoa (1-2-1), Shirley's (0-1-3), and TanHoldings (0-2-3). Taiga Namai-Scoggins made a pair of goals for MPU Pink, while Codi Maratita added one. MPU

Blue's lone goal against Paire came from Stephen Yeom.

In other results in the division, Shirley's forced a draw against TanHoldings. Mayten Puno hit the equalizer for Shirley's, while John Lloyd Lucero scored for TanHoldings.

BOYS U16 DIVISION TanHoldings 11, Paire 0

TanHoldings crushed Paire last weekend to take the solo lead in the division.

Mark Joseph Patubo had a hat-trick to lead TanHoldings, which improved to a 4-0-1 record, one win ahead of Matansa, Kanoa, and MP United. Terell Hix and Morico Claridades contributed two goals apiece, while four other TanHoldings players scored in the easy win.

Matansa 10, Shirley's 0

Matansa also clobbered Shirley's for its third victory of the season.

Jerome Mettao sizzled for four goals for Matansa, while Wataru Kadokura added a pair.

Kanoa 3, MPU 3

Markus Toves foiled MP United's bid for a fourth win after posting Kanoa's last two goals.

MP United led at the break, 3-0, behind Isaiah Hossain's twin goals and one from Cody

Shimizu. However, Kanoa fought back with Toves scoring in the 41st and 51st minute to tie the match. Earlier in the 20th minute, Tyler Omelau gave Kanoa its first goal in the game.

GIRLS U16 DIVISION Kanoa 6, MP United 0

It was also Kanoa vs MPU in the girls U16 play and the former eased its way to a 6-0 triumph to keep the lead in the division.

Kaithlyn Chavez tallied three goals for unbeaten Kanoa (4-0-0), while Audrey Castro logged two, and Joselyn Atalig hit one.

Southern United 14, Shirley's 1

Close behind Kanoa with a 3-0-1 mark is Southern United, which routed Shirley's in the other match in the group.

Pia Ngewakl stood out in Southern United's demolition of Shirley's after firing six goals. Shirley's got its only goal in the game from Jermaine Gison.

MHS 2 triumphs over SIS 1 in boys HS v-ball

By **LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT



Marianas High School 2 Dolphins secured their second win in the Public School System Boys High School Volleyball League 2021-2022 last Tuesday after beating Saipan International School 1 at the MHS Gymnasium with the MHS home crowd erupting with celebration over the win.

MHS 2 initially lost the first set, 13-21, then gained back their momentum to win the last two sets, 21-10 and 15-11.

Despite the first set loss, MHS 2 coach Don Marshall Cabrera said in an interview after the game that he "called multiple timeouts in the first set but it didn't seem to do much. So, I brought them out to the ping-pong room here at the gym and... I told them what they needed to fix... and it seemed to work because they won the next two sets."

When asked how he felt about the team and how they played, he said, "we made it harder than we needed it to be for ourselves. There were points in the game where simple errors cost us and we had to fight back and earn every single point like the other team did. It was a good game-



LEIGH GASES

Marianas High School 2 and Saipan International School 1 players are seen here in action in the Public School System Boys High School Volleyball League 2021-2022 last Tuesday at the MHS Gymnasium.

it went a lot longer than I wanted it to, but I'm glad we came out with the win," Cabrera added.

Furthermore, he said that he prefers the league-style over the tournament-style where "you can only prepare so much... And if your team is on then you're on and if your team is off, you're off for the whole day. It's not the best situation. So, I prefer this where there's time to train and iron out some of the bad stuff that they do on the court, whether it be missed serves or bad receiving; I can focus on it and help them perform better in the game."

In a game between Saipan Southern High School 1 and MHS 3, the Manta Rays came

out with the win after two sets. In the first set, SSHS 1 bagged the win, 21-17, and in the second set, SSHS barely held on to the win with a final score of 21-19.

Right after the MHS 2 Dolphins' win between SIS 1, the Dolphins could not keep up their streak that night after their game with the Kagman High School Ayuyus was called a forfeit in favor of KHS.

In a game between MHS 1 and KHS, the Dolphins came out on top for the win and avenged their brothers' MHS 2's loss against KHS. In the first and final set, MHS 1 won with identical scores of 21-13.

The top-seeded GCA triumphed over MHS 3 with the

first set score of 21-9 and the last set score of 21-7.

And finally, SIS 2 saw some action but lost against the top-seeded GCA after two sets, with the first set score of 12-21 and the final set score of 19-21.

With GCA's two wins last Tuesday, the Eagles are atop the win-loss standings at (4-0), followed by MCS 1 (3-0), KHS (3-1), MHS 1 (2-1), MHS 2 (2-2), SIS 1 (1-2), SSHS 1 (1-2), MHS 3 (0-4), and SSHS 2 (0-3), MCS 2 (1-2), SIS 2 (0-1).

The Public School System Boys High School Volleyball League 2021-2022 is being held with help from the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association.

Basketball clubs meeting set for April 12

The Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Association is calling representatives of basketball clubs on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan to attend a meeting on Tuesday, April 12, at the Northern Marianas Sports Association conference room.

The meeting is set for 6pm and for those who could not attend the event via zoom as a link will be provided later.

NMIBF president James Lee said the meeting aims to engage the clubs more on the activities and matters involving NMI basketball, particularly the programs that would benefit the clubs and their players and coaches. Lee added that club representatives will be briefed on membership requirements, the election process, tournaments, and the annual general assembly that will be held on April 26.

"We are reaching out to the clubs and their representatives to get them more involved with the NMI basketball rebuilding program. We have limited engagements with the club last year due to the restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, but moving forward, we want to hear from the clubs how we can help them grow their own program. Basketball clubs play a very critical role in the development of our sport and the NMIBF along with its partners and

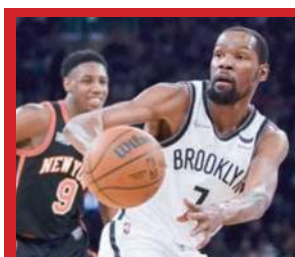
supporters in both private and public sectors want every club to have a voice, be active, and encourage their players and officials to be part of their respective programs," Lee said.

Last year, the NMIBF through FIBA Oceania donated equipment to clubs on Saipan and Tinian and also hosted a 3x3 tournament for the men's, women's, and U18 teams from the two islands. Rota was also invited to join the competition. This year, the federation then brought its version of FIBA Foundation's Basketball For Good program to Saipan villages by holding a series of mini basketball outreach program called "Bola." Players from Saipan basketball clubs and many village residents joined the "Bola session," which the NMIBF also hopes to bring on Rota and Tinian.

See **CLUBS** on **Page 22**



Lee



Kevin Durant leads Nets in comeback win over Knicks
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Saipan Tribune Sports

MP United teams on top Youth Spring League
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lack of facility 'strain' to nat'l track team

» But NMA 'Rising to the Challenge'

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

With the resurfacing of the Oleai track and field expected to render the facility off-limits until May, Northern Marianas Athletics had to scramble for alternative venues to train members of the national athletics team pool for this year's Pacific Mini Games.

National athletics coach Dr. Ron Snyder said the timing of the resurfacing of the CNMI's only track facility was unfortunate.

"This puts added strain in developing our team but NMA is 'Rising to the Challenge!' We have dedicated and enthusiastic athletes and coaches and are making the best of this challenging situation," he said.

The middle-distance Level 2 coach and Level 1 assistant

lecturer for athletics said currently his wards are training in different makeshift venues to prepare for the Mini Games, which the CNMI will be hosting for the first time ever from June 17 to 25 this year.

"Right now the middle and long distance runners meet at the airport and use the field and the road. The sprinters are practicing at the beach and the throwers work out in the weight

See LACK on Page 22



EDWARD DELA CRUZ JR.

The Oleai track and field is currently undergoing a resurfacing and the work is not expected to be completed by May. Photo shows a drone shot of the Oleai Sports Complex facility yesterday.



Antoni Ogumoro won't try out for nat'l team

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Top prospect Antoni Ogumoro will no longer try out for the CNMI Men's National Team for the Inaugural FIBA Micronesian Cup in Guam this coming June.

This, after the now 6'6" power forward from White Oak High School in North Carolina decided to play in

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Antoni Ogumoro is shown here in an undated photo taken by Instagram creator @kasiawitdaflicks.

the Elite Youth Basketball League this summer.

"I was actually looking forward to coming back home to try out for the CNMI National Team and at the same time kind of sad. I'm sad that I can't make it back home, but opportunities came up that I couldn't pass up this summer that I'm excited about and will be representing the CNMI in a different way."

The opportunity the son of former CNMI national bas-

ketball team member Ambrose Ogumoro and his wife, former CNMI national volleyball team member, Mayumi Aguon, is referring to is suiting up for the 15U team of Nike Team United in the aforementioned EYBL.

"I am looking forward to one thing and that's winning all five sessions in Orlando, Indianapolis, Louisville, Kansas City, and then into the championships at the Peach Jam in Augusta, Georgia,"

he added.

Ogumoro, who was ranked No. 11 overall among power forwards in the basketball-crazed state of North Carolina last year, added another feather in his cap when he was included in Clemson University's Class of 2025 Watchlist.

"I am grateful that Clemson University has me on their Class of 2025 Watchlist, but as of now, it just tells me to continue working harder

because my end goal is to get a free education playing the sport I love."

The EYBL callup and being on the radar of Clemson University are something the now 16-year-old Ogumoro could only dream about when he began freshman basketball last year.

"I didn't get the start at the beginning of the season, but made the starting rotation half way through averaging 8 points per game, 1 block per game, and not too sure what my other averages

See ANTONI on Page 22



Eagle Construction surprises No. 2 NAPA Auto

MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Eagle Construction returned to its winning ways following a 70-63 upset of second-running NAPA Auto in the masters division of the Inaugural SCLC Basketball League last Wednesday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

With an eye toward improving its playoff positioning, Eagle Construction

gutted it out with the heart-stopping win as the game's conclusion was in the balance in the final minute of the contest.

NAPA Auto closed in at 64-61, but Eagle Construction's

See EAGLE on Page 22

MARK RABAGO

Eagle Construction's Leo Itaas drives against NAPA Auto's Jorge De Guzman during their masters division game in the Inaugural SCLC Basketball League last Wednesday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.








070

DAYS LEFT UNTIL



**NORTHERN MARIANAS
PACIFIC MINI GAMES
2022**

JUNE 17-25, 2022





